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BIRTHS.

At the China Merchants' Lower Wharf, on the morning of the 9th January, the wife of A. A. DA ROZA, of a son.

On the 16th January, at 2, Canton Villas, Kowloon, the wife of J. W. L. OLIVER, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 18th January, 1899, at the British Consulate, Shanghai, and afterwards at the Holy Trinity Cathedral, T. J. HOVELL, to M. E. EDWARDS, the eldest daughter of S. EDWARDS, of Llangollen, North Wales.

On the 14th January, 1899, Shanghai, at the St. Joseph's Church, by the Rev. Father Colombel, S. J., ALFRED MAEKI, to ANNIE CARROLL, only daughter of the late Jimm Carroll, both of Japan.

At the Roman Catholic Cathedral, Hongkong, on the 14th January, by the Very Rev. Father B. Vigno, J. WILLIAMS N., master of the steamer *Chow Fu*, to ELIZABETH, eldest daughter of Capt. John GEERY, Singapore.

DEATHS.

At the General Hospital, Shanghai, on the 9th January, 1899, HENRY SYLVA, aged 7 years.

On the 12th January, 1899, at No. 11A, Ming-hong Road, Shanghai, of pneumonia, ARTHUR MARIA, the dearly beloved son of Serafim Benjamin and Rosalia Prisca DOS REMEDIOS, aged 20 years and 5 months.

At the Astor House, Shanghai, of pneumonia, on Sunday, 15th January, IRWIN THOMAS BARRET, son of the late Thos. L. Barret, of Louisville Kentucky, U.S.A.

At the Peak Hospital, on the 16th January, ALFRED MACANDREW, second officer, Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs R. S. *Fahoo*, aged 24 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAIIS.

There have been no arrivals of mails during the week.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

A Masonic Ball was given at Shanghai on the 18th January.

A small steamer named *Atsuta Maru*, 164 tons, was burnt at Hakodate on the 20th December.

M. Rollin Jacquemyns, the General Adviser to the Siamese Government, is now returning to Bangkok from Belgium, where he has been on leave.

A lecture on the Philippines was delivered by the Hon. John Barrett in the Shanghai Municipal Hall on the 12th January, under the auspices of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce. It attracted a very large audience, who listened with much interest to his very interesting address. Mr. E. F. Alford presided, and at the close proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer, which was seconded by Mr. Dudgeon, and carried unanimously.

We understand that the Captain of the Chinese gunboat that was sent after Kang Yu-wei at the time of the latter's flight from Peking has been arrested and thrown into gaol at Peking for his failure to catch the fugitive, or, in other words, for not taking him off a British man-of-war. We are also informed that two Weiuyans who lived in the same house as Kang have been arrested. The work of hunting out the reformers is evidently still going on.

The Batavia *Nieuwsblad* is glad to see that its recently published sketch of the importance of Pulo Way as a maritime station to compete with Penang and Singapore finds an acknowledgement on the part of the Government.

There is a proposal under consideration by the Government to review the tariff for docking at Sabang Bay, on Pulo Way, in such sense as to bring the charges there at least down to those ruling in Penang and Singapore and if possible to cut under them.

Various rumours are in existence as to the question of the ownership of the submarine cable between Tamsui and Foochow. The actual fact of the case, however, appear, a Japanese paper states, to be as follows. The Japanese Government had negotiated with the Chinese Government for the purchase of the cable line for 100,000 yen, and afterwards obtained the consent of the Diet and included the estimate in the Budget at the end of December last. France objected to the transfer of the ownership of the cable, but the objection has been disregarded by the Japanese Government. Some years ago when the cable line was opened to Wladivostock via Korea, by the Great Northern Telegraph Company, a contract was entered into between Russia, Japan, and Korea, binding Japan not to establish any cable line in connection with the Asiatic Continent, and, as the Japanese Government explained to the Diet, this contract is binding for three or four years, even with regard to the line between Formosa and Foochow. Therefore, it has been arranged that the control of the line should be placed, for the present, in the hands of the Great Northern Telegraph Company, on condition that the Japanese Government pays the sum of 300 yen a month to the company for the control of the cable. The price of the cable in question was actually paid to the Chinese Government at Peking on the 6th inst. when the ownership of the line was at last assumed by Japan.—*Nagasaki Press*.

Senhor Galhardo, Governor of Macao, has at last obtained the sanction of the Lisbon Government to the purchase of a dredger for work in Macao harbour.

The Shanghai mandarins received on the 14th January an important telegram from Ichang reporting the capture by rebels—*Kolo Hui*—of the district city of Changlo in Shinan prefecture, Hupeh province, on the 12th instant, and the reported murder of the district magistrate, besides other officials. Changlo is about a hundred miles to the southwest of Ichang, as the crow flies, and borders on the Hupeh-Hunan frontier. About a fortnight ago troops sent by Viceroy Chang visited the place and drove the malcontents into Hunan and having restored order were sent back to Ichang.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The following appears in the published minutes of the Shanghai Municipal Council:—*Plague Bacillus*.—The attention of the Council has been drawn to the experiments now being carried on in the Municipal laboratory with this bacillus, which include the inoculation of animals and to which it is stated is attached some considerable risk. Reference has been made to the Health Officer and to the Chairman of the Sanitary Board, both of whom are of opinion that the risk is small and should be taken in case of the necessity arising for combating an outbreak of the disease in Shanghai. It is, however, decided that the experiments be forbidden and all the bacilli destroyed.

We translate the following from the *Courrier d' Haiphong*:—"It is stated that a concession for the working of the iron mines discovered in Cambodia has been applied for by manufacturers resident in Japan. Of what nationality are the applicants? We have strong reason to suppose that they are English. Their intention is to convey the mineral to Japan and there extract the iron that it contains. We hope their application will be decisively refused. If these iron fields exist, as is stated, the benefit of their working should be reserved for Frenchmen and not given to foreigners. The construction of railways in Indo-China will assure an important and certain opening for this new industry. If we are correctly informed, M. Magrin, the great manufacturer and conseiller général for d'Aisne, who gave a banquet to M. Doumer, has embarked at Marseilles with the Governor-General, of whom he is a personal friend. He comes to Tonkin to study the means of establishing the metal industry here. No doubt M. Doumer will have made him acquainted with the situation we have described and will have requested him to make his first investigations in that direction. Before giving concessions of this kind to foreigners the Government ought to promote a national industry for the exploitation of the agricultural and mineral riches of Indo-China. In default of M. Magrin other Frenchmen will be found to study the project and take it up if the prospects make it worth their while." "We do not think our contemporary need distress itself about the prospect of English capital being invested in mining ventures in Indo-China. Ventures already made in that direction have not been encouraging! The mines may be rich enough, but the official obstruction encountered could hardly be surpassed even in China."

THE CHINA ASSOCIATION'S DEFINITION OF THE OPEN DOOR.

(Daily Press, 17th January.)

In another column will be found a series of resolutions passed by the Committee of the Hongkong Branch of the China Association last month and transmitted to Lord CHARLES BERESFORD, Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD, the Shanghai Branch of the Association, and the Committee of the Association in London. It will be observed with satisfaction that the Committee places on record its opinion that the revenue system of China is the greatest of all obstacles to the improvement of trade, to the increase of manufactures, to the opening of mines and the construction of railways in China, and that the British Government should bring all its power and influence to bear on the Imperial Government to compel unification of the finances of the Government, Imperial and Provincial, in the hands of a special service entirely manned by Europeans and worked on the plan of the Imperial Maritime Customs. In expressing that opinion the China Association may count upon the support of every Britisher in China. It will be observed that the resolutions were passed a month after Lord CHARLES BERESFORD had made his Shanghai speech, in which he set out the reorganisation of the Chinese army as the great panacea for the country's ills, but the China Association lends no support to his lordship's recommendations on this point. On the contrary, while Lord CHARLES BERESFORD says the reorganisation of the army is necessary for police purposes, the Hongkong Branch of the China Association says that with the unification of the collection of revenues in the hands of a special department such as is recommended in one of the other resolutions there will necessarily be conjoined an immense improvement in the policing of trade routes both by land and water and greater additional security for investments in China; from which it would seem that the Association considers the organisation of an effective Customs Service with its preventive branch would sufficiently meet the requirements of the case so far as foreign trade and investments are concerned. Having the resolutions of the China Association before him it seems rather singular that Lord CHARLES BERESFORD in his speech at the public meeting promoted by the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce did not more fully explain why he thought the reorganisation of the army should be the first step in the work of reforming the Chinese administration. His lordship did so at the private tiffin at which he was entertained on the following day by the China Association, when the point was directly presented to him by the Chairman in proposing his lordship's health, and it will probably be admitted by those who heard it that the explanation was rather convincing, but unfortunately, the gathering being a private one, the public had not the opportunity of reading any report of his lordship's speech on that occasion.

The resolutions also compel attention on account of their condemnation of the spheres of influence policy, the advocacy of the policy of the open door, and the attempted definition of the latter. We use the term "attempted definition," because the definition cannot be accepted as a successful one. Also it may be remarked that if a definition of the open door policy was deemed necessary the policy of spheres of influence should also have been defined. The attempted definition of the open door policy is not

only unsuccessful, but—and we say it with all respect to the gentlemen forming the committee—a complete absurdity. This will be seen at once if it be applied to a particular case. For instance, an Anglo-Italian Syndicate, with the support of the British and Italian Governments, has obtained a concession under which it enjoys the exclusive right and privilege of making railways and working mines in Shensi and Honan. According to the Hongkong Branch of the China Association the granting of such exclusive right or privilege should be deemed by other Powers an unfriendly act, etc., etc. It may be urged that this is a travesty of the Association's contention and that the wording of the resolution was never meant to apply to concessions granted to mercantile corporations of any nationality whatsoever. But in point of fact, the granting of concessions to the subjects of particular Powers is all that the policy of spheres of influence really amounts to as the term is ordinarily understood. It has been cleverly said that the future influence of the various Powers in China will depend upon their command of railway power, as maritime supremacy depends upon the command of sea power. The simile may not be correct, but at present it is apparently strongly believed in by some of the Powers, who are making every effort to secure railway concessions. In this sense the creation of spheres of influence is inevitable, for it is obvious that if a particular railway concession has been granted to a British syndicate the same concession cannot be granted to a Russian syndicate, and vice versa. Such concessions will never be put up to open tender, but will be granted under the influence of the strongest diplomatic pressure, and, it may perhaps in some cases be added, the heaviest bribes. This race for concessions at Peking and the mixing up of the diplomatic body therein is in danger of degrading the European name and reputation with the Chinese, and if the various Powers could come to some working agreement between themselves, as our great Steamship Companies do when they find competition mutually disastrous, it would be an excellent thing, even though it involved some recognition of spheres of influence. But the absurdity of the China Association's definition may be tested by another instance. It has been agreed that Sir ROBERT HART's successor is to be a British subject. Is not that "an exclusive right or privilege" granted to Great Britain? Would other nations be justified in deeming the granting of such right or privilege to Great Britain an unfriendly act? Surely the China Association would not say so, but its definition of the policy of the open door leads to that conclusion. No two people seem to have the same conception of the meaning either of spheres of influence or of the open door and under those circumstances we would suggest that the use of the terms in ordinary everyday controversy should be dropped, or at all events suspended until their meanings have been defined more clearly than the China Association has succeeded in defining them.

The *Courrier d'Hoipho* says that one of the most important cement factories of France is sending out an engineer to Tonkin to conduct an investigation with a view to determining whether it might be possible to establish a factory there.

The houses on the hill at Kobe occupied by Mr. Clapp and Mr. Gomes were burnt down on the 6th January. Mr. Clapp was insured for 5,000 yen in the Hongkong Fire. The other insurances were in home offices, the Northern and the Imperial.

THE FRENCH DEMANDS AT SHANGHAI.

(Daily Press, 16th January.)

According to the telegrams from home the question of the territorial demands on the part of the French Consul-General at Shanghai from the Chinese Viceroy at Nanking has been raised above the level of a purely local topic, and the *Times* has plainly stated that the British Government, apart from the Chinese, "does not intend to submit to such treatment." Presumably the *Times* considers that the aggressive policy the French have displayed at Shanghai is a menace to the preservation of the integrity of that dubious region known as the "Yangtze Valley." Whatever may be the exact geographical limitations of that term there is no room to doubt that it comprises the land adjacent to and upon which is built the foremost commercial city of the Chinese Empire. Placing that interpretation upon the statement by the *Times*, and accepting the fact that Shanghai, above all places, is essentially within the sphere of the Yangtze Valley, the question that presents itself for consideration is, will the fulfilment of the French demands—if they be fulfilled—constitute an alienation of territory from the protective wings of Great Britain to become ultimately French in name, administration, and possession? To weigh such an issue it is necessary to consider the French claims and what led to their origin, and also to view the isolated position of the French concession. At the end of July last year there occurred at Shanghai a serious riot amongst the Ningpo community in consequence of a body of French Volunteers and sailors attempting to take possession of the Ningpo Joss-house and the land contiguous to it. The feelings of the Ningpo community throughout the whole of the foreign settlements were naturally excited, chiefly over what they considered, as with all Chinese, an outrage, namely, the molestation of their dead, apart from the question of wrongful seizure. The result of the affair was that mob law for some time prevailed, and a struggle ensued between the French force and the Chinese in which several of the latter were killed.

Looking calmly at this affair it must be admitted that the French were to blame, they undoubtedly being the aggressors. The deaths that resulted are only justified so far as the French Volunteers and sailors are concerned by the fact that they acted under orders and on the authority of their consular representative in defence of their own lives from the onslaught of a furious mob. It is to be hoped that by now those Volunteers have acquired "wisdom and with that wisdom understanding," for high-handed action of that nature is scarcely consonant, we take it, with the object of the formation of Volunteer forces in the Northern Settlements, jeopardising as it did the life of every person in Shanghai. The French authorities were responsible for the injury done and the great inconvenience and alarm the occupants of the foreign Settlements were put to by the attitude of the Ningpo community. They were in the wrong because their claim to the Ningpo Joss-house, apart from their attempted forcible seizure, was invalid. The French have previous to this indulged in similar freaks with like results. Previous to the riots of 1874 the Joss-house was handed over to the Ningpo Guild, during the joint occupation, by a body of British sailors, who had foreseen the French in taking possession. In 1874

the then French Consul created riots by attempting to seize it, but was compelled to acknowledge the right of the Ningpo Guild to this now famous landmark. Since then and up to the recent display of energy on the part of the Count de BEZAURE we fail to see that the French have or can produce any legal proof to support their right of possession. Then to occupy, as the French have recently endeavoured to do, by forcible means is an act as invalid as it is unwise. If the Municipalité Française at Shanghai desired extension its application should have been made in proper channels and in a correct and peaceful manner. The duty of the Municipalité Française is to provide an object lesson to the Chinese in good local self-government, and to develop sound trade within its borders. Then, as in the case of the other Foreign settlements, the beneficence of its control and its growing needs would have demanded and secured its expansion. From this incident have risen the present demands of the French Consul-General, who, as an indemnification for the riots in last July claims not only the Joss-house but large territorial concessions adjoining the French Settlement. To support those demands the cruiser *Descartes* has been dispatched to Nanking to intimidate the Viceroy, where, if China was anything like a Power, she might, rearing at her, anchor till that glorious millennium in the vision of "Locksley Hall" approaches.

One thing obvious is, that this is no. the action of the Municipalité Française; it is the action of the French Government through its Consul-General. The demands are not those of the Municipalité; they are those of the French Government, unless that Government permits its representative to indulge on his own responsibility in these little vagaries, which it is not easy to believe. Thus when a foreign government intimates by a naval display the Viceregal powers at Nanking into the granting of certain indemnifications, which is a travesty on Justice, it leads up to the fine logical or rather practical point as to where the "concession" ends and the "colony" begins, especially if the consular representative of France be empowered to seize land whenever he so desires, and have an armed force maintained by local ratepayers to effect in part his bidding. On the death of a missionary Emperor WILLIAM seized a province, for killing certain Chinese. France claims the same privilege though politely modified in dimensions. Truly the Chinese, deep in the morals of Confucius must be impressed with the political morality of the foreigners. Fortunately for China and her people opinions amongst foreigners differ, and though the Chinese Viceroy perforce may have to grant the French claims Great Britain undoubtedly views those claims as unjust and aggressive. In the Yangtze Valley and in the neighbourhood of Shanghai especially Great Britain cannot afford to ignore that spirit of aggression. In the Foreign Settlements at Shanghai where England and America decided to join hands and admit all, there is ample room for French trade. The best of the French commercial houses are wisely there already; the most important business houses in the French Concession are British and German. The demands of the French Consul-General are not supported by them; the French theatrical performances at Nanking are neither desired nor encouraged by the foreigners who live and have their being in China and are honestly concerned in her welfare. It is well the French Government should recognise this.

THE FUTILITY OF ALLIANCES.

(*Daily Press*, 19th January.)

The question of international alliances has recently been brought closely home to us in the Far East by Lord CHARLES BERESFORD's suggested alliance of Great Britain, the United States, Germany, and Japan with the object of maintaining the integrity of China as an open market for the trade of the world. Our correspondent "Wide-awake" has already suggested the anomaly of free trade and protectionist countries combining together to influence the commercial policy of a third; another correspondent signing himself "B" reminds us that Germany was the real cause of Japan's having to relinquish the Liaotung Peninsula, a fact which Japan will never forget; and Reuter tells us that the debates in the United States Senate on the Philippine question are revealing a strong anti-German feeling. The material certainly seems unpromising for a cordial and permanent alliance, and after hearing all that our recent distinguished visitor has had to say in favour of his proposal we still remain of the opinion long ago expressed in this column that England will best conserve her interests by standing on her own legs. Lord CHARLES BERESFORD speaks of the Triple alliance having preserved the peace of Europe; but he gives no proof that the two circumstances stand in the relation of cause and effect. The Triple Alliance was formed for the preservation of peace, and peace has been preserved; but then we pray in church every Sunday for the preservation of peace, and it would be as logical to ascribe the fact that peace has been preserved solely and entirely to the efficacy of prayer. An astrologer also might contend that the result was due to the influences of the planets. Peace might have been preserved had the Triple Alliance never been called into existence, and preserved possibly without the assistance of the enormous armaments that have had to be kept up. Assuming that the Triple Alliance has really been the cause of the preservation of peace it is open to debate whether the short and sharp experience of a war would not have been preferable to the long drawn out agony of the armed peace that has been sapping the financial and industrial resources of several of the European countries, which have been called upon to bear burdens beyond their strength. An hour with the dentist may be a painful experience, but it is preferable to months of gnawing toothache.

It is not often that we find ourselves in agreement with our Tonkin contemporaries, but on this subject of alliances a well-written article appears in the *Avenir du Tonkin* of the 11th January, the main conclusions of which commend themselves as eminently sensible. The newspaper and reviews of the present day, says the writer, formulate propositions that such and such a nation should form an alliance with such and such a one, that the interests of this people suggest an understanding with that, that other two powers have everything to gain by working together, and so on. But it is easier to write these fine things than to place them in execution. In the good old days questions of alliances were less complicated. Politics then were directed to the maintenance of the balance of power amongst the European nations and within the limits of the Continent, a stroke of the pen, a marriage, the gift of a principality, the cession of a town sufficed to restore order and satisfy everyone. To-day each nation is asking on what side to range itself in

order to best safeguard its interests. A good and serious alliance is like the mirage of the desert: in the distance it fascinates the eye, excites the imagination, but when one approaches it in the hope of resting in its shade there is nothing there, all has vanished; and if another pursuit be made it is with the same fruitless result. The problem has reached a complexity which leaves far behind all the cases of conscience imagined by the most subtle casuists. A diplomat in these days can never say with certainty, "On this point of the globe such and such interests are in conflict; in order to preserve and develop those of my country it will suffice to use such and such means, to approach such and such a Minister or Ambassador." No sooner would he have arrived at such a conclusion than some event would happen to overthrow his fine projects. The writer in our contemporary then goes on to give instances of the futility of alliances, in some of which his conclusions may be dissented from, but the general line of argument is sound. He refers to the Franco-Russian alliance and says that since the memorable day when that alliance was proclaimed with such enthusiasm the French have been a little disillusioned. The condition of Russia and its inevitable development are mentioned and the pertinent question propounded why Russia should support France and in concert with her make war against the world. "Besides," he continues, "see what treaties are worth. France and England—I speak of a time when we never lost a chance of pulling the chestnuts out of the fire for our grateful neighbour—France and England agreed that it was necessary to muzzle the Northern Bear in order to prevent him disporting himself in the waters of the Bosphorus. And the result? It is Germany whose voice is now listened to with the greatest attention on the banks of the Golden Horn. Who would have thought it?"

Our contemporary gives other instances, including that of the Triple alliance, and goes on to say:—"No; whatever may be said, it is impossible for any nation at the present time to stand on a prearranged line of conduct carefully studied and nicely determined. If the thing had been realisable it would already have been accomplished. There are too many interests at stake; each one wants the whole blanket for himself; each nation to assure for itself the first rank. There results a defiance or animosity which keeps the Powers apart, without speaking of the uncertainties of the morrow. All the Cabinets recognise that there is something in the air, that it would be prudent to take precautions against the time when the tempest shall break, but that is all. Anxious glances are turned to all points of the horizon without discovering a port of refuge; still it is most likely on himself alone that each one will in future have to rely. What renders agreement difficult and hazardous is that the elements which formerly presided over alliances have disappeared. Formerly one fought for a principle; sentiment entered into politics. To-day, with the possible exception of Russia, it is the industrial and commercial question that overrides all others. As this question has become so intense, so vital for all countries, as at bottom it is, simply a struggle of opposed interests, of contrary ambitions, and as the last word must belong to the people who can place in line the most colonies, the most merchants, manufacturers, and experts, it will be understood that the balance amongst all these rivalries cannot easily

"be maintained." Our contemporary of course takes a French view of commercial rivalry; and the view is not only French but that of practically every country but Great Britain. From the British point of view international trade ought to be a promoter of peace, good will, and mutual prosperity, as in fact it is and must be, but foreign Governments do not recognise that, and while they continue pledged to a selfish policy of protection Great Britain with its free trade principles can have little to hope from alliances, unless it be with the United States, in whose case community of racial feeling may count for more than divergence in fiscal policy.

IMPERIAL EXPANSION AND THE GROWTH OF TRADE.

(*Daily Press*, 14th January.)

In his speech at the Navy League banquet Lord CHARLES BERESFORD said that we could not go on increasing the empire as we had been doing and that we did not want to see any more of the chart marked red. This is a view to which Britons abroad have some difficulty in reconciling themselves; they may recognise in a general way that the empire has grown to unwieldy proportions, rendering its adequate defence a matter of difficulty, but there is always a little bit of territory somewhere, in which they are more or less directly interested, that they think might without danger and with much advantage be added to Her Majesty's already wide-spreading dominions. There is, furthermore, the pride of race which makes for improving (as it is thought) the heritage to be left to our successors by constantly adding to it. In the case of waste lands that are adapted to European settlement a policy of annexation may be supported, for there our interest lies not only in the trade we may develop with the new possession but also in providing homes for our overflowing population. But with regard to countries already populated by advanced native races, and where our interests do not go beyond mere buying and selling, there is much to be said in favour of the opinion expounded by Lord CHARLES BERESFORD. Those who are inclined to differ from his lordship and to hold with Mr. CHAMBERLAIN that "we are liable to be excluded from any country so far as hostile tariffs can possibly exclude us, where the British flag does not float," and that therefore a policy of conquest and annexation is dictated by the circumstances, will find a wholesome tonic in an article by Lord FARRER in the December number of the *Contemporary Review*. The title of the article is "Does trade follow the flag?" and the conclusion arrived at is that "trade does not follow the flag; it follows the price list." The figures given, which are taken from the Board of Trade returns, are remarkable. In 1854, the first year for which reliable figures are available, the exports of British goods to foreign countries was £63,000,000, and in 1895 £156,000,000, while to British possessions the amount had risen from £34,000,000 to £70,000,000. Thus in 1854 the exports to foreign countries represented 64.9 of the total exports and in 1895 69 per cent., while the exports to British possessions, which in 1854 represented 35.1 per cent. of the total, in 1895 only represented 31 per cent. And this, in spite of the enormous extension of the British empire that has occurred during that period. Tables are given referring to most of the leading countries and colonies, which bear out the results of the general table from which the figures above given are quoted.

In reply to the question, What do these figures prove? Lord FARRER says he does not for a moment suggest that the natives of foreign countries with wants and habits different from those of Englishmen will buy and use as large a quantity of the things produced in England as people of British origin and habits would buy and use. He does not suggest that the trade of the United Kingdom would not have been much larger if the Union Jack had waved over all the countries now dominated by the tricolour or by the double-headed eagle. Still less does he suggest that the protective and prohibitory tariffs of foreign nations, not to mention those of our own colonies, have not made the trade of the United Kingdom less than it would otherwise have been. What the figures do prove, he says, is that the trade of the United Kingdom with foreign nations is three times as great as the trade of the United Kingdom with countries under the British flag; that this proportion has been substantially maintained for the last half-century; that it has remained the same or nearly the same, in spite of changes of all kinds; in spite of the enormous increase of the British empire; in spite of wars and alterations of boundaries; in spite of changes in the internal policies of the nations; in spite of the partial adoption, and in spite of the subsequent relinquishment by other nations, of the principles of Free Trade. In short, says Lord FARRER, the figures "prove conclusively that extension of empire is not necessary for the maintenance of the foreign trade of the United Kingdom, and that there is some fundamental fallacy in the doctrine, so dear to Jingoes and protectionists, that the trade follows the flag." We give below extracts from the concluding portions of the article, and would direct special attention to the paragraph dealing with the China question:

The final result of our inquiry is, that if the maxim, "Trade follows the flag," means that our trade depends on our dominion, it is refuted by the events of the last half-century. "Trade," as has been well said, "does not follow the flag; it follows the price-list." The success of our trade depends, not on the nationality of our purchasers, but on the efficiency and economy of our industrial production. What should be done to promote these qualities is a question which lies beyond the scope of this article; but we may be satisfied that to burden our people with the expense of seizing and governing unremunerative possessions, and with the cost of gigantic armaments created to defend such possessions from all possible rivals, will not tend to economical production. Still less will it tend to economy if, in pursuit of new markets, we are led into war with such countries as France, or Russia, or Germany. Of such a war no one can tell the issue, but we may be very sure that, even if we were successful in the war, there are very few markets which would repay us for the cost. There would be no sufficient "value received." *Le jeu ne vaudrait pas la chandelle.*

It follows from the above facts that it is not necessary to extend our Empire in order to maintain our trade, and that extension of Empire is not necessarily followed by increase of trade. Each separate extension must be judged on its own merits. No extension will be valuable to us unless we get "value received" for our outlay, a point which in the case of some of our recent extensions is extremely doubtful.

It follows, further, that jealousy of the extension of other civilised nations into the waste places of the world is altogether out of place; and that, even supposing those nations to maintain an exclusive and Protectionist policy, our trade will probably gain more by the better policing and government of those places than it will lose by the commercial rivalry of our neighbours, even when supported by an exclusive system of Protection. But if, on the other hand, upon any new appropriation by a civilised

nation of regions hitherto barbarous or semi-civilised we could be satisfied that they would adopt the policy of the "open door," we should obtain all that our trade requires; and we might regard such appropriation not only without discontent, but with complete and positive approval.

Considerations such as these are peculiarly appropriate at the present moment. We are invited by the greatest military potentate in the world to join in an endeavour to stop the present ruinous increase of military expenditure. The cynicism of those who would throw cold water on such an invitation is little to be envied; but it cannot be denied that the obstacles to any such course as the Russian Emperor proposes are most formidable, and that they will continue to be so, so long as causes of quarrel exist. May not some of the most serious of these causes be removed by such a policy as is suggested above? Take the three most important foreign questions which are now agitating this country—the question of China, of East Africa, and the new extension of the United States.

We are quarrelling in China about spheres of influence, about railway and steamship concessions, as well as about the "open door." But it is the "open door" which is our chief interest. Is it not possible to say to France, to Germany, and, above all, to Russia, "We have nothing to object to your settlements or spheres of influence in China, provided they do not exclude our ships and our goods; we shall be glad that you should make harbours and railways in China, if only you will allow us to use them on fair and equal terms; we shall even be obliged to you, Russia, if you will introduce order and justice where the effete Chinese Government now encourages tyranny and corruption, provided only you allow your new subjects to buy and sell with us; and on these terms we will heartily join you in reducing the number of warships we now keep on the Chinese coast."

* * * * *

There are two views which can be taken of the interests and effects of trade. The one is that upon which Great Britain acted in former times, which is still in favour with many foreign nations and with a small but noisy party amongst ourselves—the view, namely, that it is the interest of each nation to act in the spirit of monopoly, to keep the trade of the world to itself, and to restrict the trade of other nations. This is the policy which in former times restricted our own trade; which made our own colonies revolt; which has been the cause of many bloody wars, and which, if some of the utterances I have quoted at the beginning of this article become the opinion of our people, may well lead us into bloody wars again.

The other view is that trade is, like mercy, a blessing to him that gives and to him that takes, to him that buys as well as to him that sells; that the less it is hampered with restrictions the more it flourishes; and that a trade which benefits other nations must be a benefit to ourselves. This is the view upon which our country has acted for the last half-century, with great benefit to the world but still greater benefit to ourselves. It is the gospel preached by Cobden—not only or chiefly, on account of its material advantages, but because it carries into the practical life of the world the Christian message: "Peace and goodwill amongst men." There never was a time when it was more important that this gospel should be zealously preached.

The British barque *Fifeshire* (1,318 tons), which arrived at Yokohama on the 5th January, from Antwerp, says the *Japan Mail*, had an extremely long and tempestuous voyage. On the way out via the Cape she experienced fearful weather, and was so damaged that she had to put into Capetown, where her cargo, chiefly consisting of cast iron pipes, had to be taken out and restowed, and extensive repairs were made. In the China Sea and off the Islands she had also to meet extremely rough weather, losing her fore top-mast and fore top-gallant-mast, and sustaining a considerable amount of damage in other respects. She started from Antwerp on May 14th, 1898, so that she was very nearly eight months on the voyage. But for her last unfortunate experience she would have escaped the new tariff duties, and saved a good many thousand dollars.

BIMETALLISM AND THE RATIO.

(Daily Press, 18th January.)

Under the influence of the comparative steadiness of exchange that has for some time past prevailed, and the belief that silver is more likely to rise as expressed in terms of gold than to suffer any further decline, local interest in the currency question, and especially the bimetallic phase of it, has waned. Bimetallism indeed has come to be regarded almost as an extinct faith. The cause is not absolutely dead, however, but on the contrary has perhaps a better chance of success than ever before. The mistake that has hitherto been made by the majority of bimetallists has been in trying to rehabilitate silver in the sense of restoring the old ratio of fifteen and a half to one when the market value of the metal had sunk far below that level. Theoretical bimetallists have all along held that the ratio was a mere matter of detail and that the object to be aimed at was the establishment of equilibrium at any point at which it might be found practicable. The opinions of this section of the party, however, have hitherto commanded little attention on account of the noisy agitation of that larger section who had private axes to grind and whose object was either to get four shillings for their two-shilling dollar or to bring about a cheapening of gold with a consequent rise in gold prices as the case might be. The idea of establishing stability of exchange as something that would be of advantage to trade in general, irrespective of the ratio that it might be found possible to fix, and regardless of the particular interests that might be momentarily affected adversely or favourably, has had comparatively few supporters. Looking back on the history of the agitation we think there can be little doubt that the decline in silver might have been arrested almost at any point had the bimetallic party as a whole been prepared to accept a ratio corresponding to that prevailing at the time in the open market, but the chance was thrown away in the vain endeavour to get back to the old ratio of fifteen and a half to one and by a legislative enactment to increase the value of silver and all silver securities. The hopelessness of this endeavour seems at last to have been partially realised, and in a recent telegram received by way of India we were informed that a settlement of the currency difficulty has been proposed on the basis of India opening her mints to silver and the United States opening her mints to silver as well as gold at a ratio of twenty-two to one (equivalent to a one-and-fourpenny rupee). It is said that it has been decided to press this project on the Indian Currency Committee and the Government and that it is influentially supported both by monometallists and bimetallists. Having got so far there is perhaps some little prospect of a ratio approximating to that of the open market, say something in the neighbourhood of thirty to one, being ultimately accepted. There is a great difference between supporting an existing value and restoring an extinct one, and it is only on the former principle that bimetallism can hope to succeed. The establishment of the ratio of twenty-two to one could have been effected without difficulty when that was the market ratio; it cannot be established now. The mere fact of a ratio below the old fifteen and a half to one being seriously proposed, however, marks a considerable advance of the bimetallic position.

DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS.

(Daily Press, 20th January.)

It is not surprising that the Times should regard the proposals to be submitted to the Czar's Peace Congress as visionary and impracticable. These proposals include the prohibition of submarine torpedo-boats, ships with rams, new and more powerful weapons or explosives, and any new inventions. The object of war is to destroy the enemy's force as expeditiously as possible, and so long as the art of war endures so long will the inventive powers of mankind be applied to the perfection of death dealing weapons. Inventions designed merely for the infliction of suffering without affecting the tide of battle may rightly be forbidden by civilised nations, and it is on that principle that explosive bullets are prohibited, but considerations of that kind cannot be applied to such a weapon as the ram. The object of two vessels in action being to sink or disable each other the ram is an eminently suitable weapon to use for that purpose. So also with torpedoes, and if torpedoes of any kind are allowed we fail to see any reason for prohibiting submarine torpedo boats. Moreover, statistics that have been compiled with reference to great historic battles show that improvement in the weapons of warfare has in fact been attended with a diminution in the carnage wrought. Modern weapons, therefore, while more effective in securing victory speedily and decisively, are preferable from a humanitarian point of view to those of ancient times. It would seem also that the improvement of armaments offers the best hope for the permanent preservation of peace, for with the advances that are being made the time may come when nations will regard the risk of war as too great to be undertaken so lightly as in former times, not on account of the weapons causing greater suffering to the individual components of the respective armies, but on account of the speed and completeness with which the resistance of the weaker side may be overcome. The Peace Congress will have our best wishes in any efforts it may make to promote friendly relations between the Powers and diminish the chances of war, but any attempt to stem the tide of invention as applied to weapons of war must inevitably prove futile.

SUPREME COURT.

18th January.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.**BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE).**

ATTEMPTING TO BRIBE A PUBLIC SERVANT.
Leung Yau and Wa Kan were charged that on December 17th, 1893, they unlawfully did offer as a bribe a sum of \$1 to John Thomas Cotton, a public servant, holding the appointment of Inspector of Nuisances, with a view to incline him to do an act contrary to his duty as such public servant, and allow them to slaughter a sheep for human food, although such sheep was not in the opinion of Inspector Cotton in a condition to be slaughtered for this purpose.

Prisoners pleaded not guilty.

The following composed the jury:—Messrs. A. H. Valery von Bohnsenics (foreman), Henry Reeves, F. A. de Carvalho, William Farmer, W. J. Mayson, P. José Maria Vuira, A. Luis Alves.

Mr. Pollock (Acting Attorney-General), instructed by Mr. H. L. Dennys (Crown Solicitor), appeared for the prosecution. In opening the case he said Inspector Cotton was in charge of the Animal Depôt at Kennedystown. On the 17th December, about noon, he was in the depôt

office when both defendants, who were butchers, came in and asked him if they might kill their sheep. The Inspector asked them where it was, and they replied that it was down at Kennedystown wharf. He told them to bring it up and he would inspect it. Defendants then went away and returned in about a minute with a live sheep, but the Inspector said he could not allow the sheep to be killed, as he could see that it was ill and suffering from diarrhoea. The Inspector then went back into his office and sat down at his desk. First defendant followed the Inspector a few seconds after, second defendant standing in the doorway. On the Inspector asking him what he wanted, first defendant said, "Let me kill it," and the Inspector answered "No." First defendant then said his master had given him a dollar to give to the Inspector to buy drink with, and asked second defendant for the dollar. Second defendant then handed the dollar in five 20-cent pieces to first defendant, who handed it to the Inspector. The Inspector called his shroff and told him to ask defendants what they meant. First defendant said his master had given him the money for the Inspector to buy wine with if the Inspector would allow him to kill the sheep. Defendants were then arrested and charged with this offence. The Inspector's orders were that if any animal brought for slaughter looked sick such animal was not to be slaughtered until it had been inspected by the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon. Prisoners were found guilty and were each sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.**BEFORE MR. JUSTICE WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).****ROBINSON V. SPRINGFORD.**

George William Springford was sued by Walter George Vaughan Robinson for \$145, money lent, and \$370·32 expenses of passage from home.

Mr. Hastings appeared for plaintiff.

Plaintiff said he was a musical manufacturer in Hongkong and elsewhere. Defendant was engaged by his agent in Liverpool in March of last year. He produced the agreement. Defendant arrived in April, last year. The salary was £13 a month. Witness paid him \$135 a month. On September 3rd he lent defendant \$100. Defendant admitted this loan. He had also had an advance at Singapore. Witness paid defendant \$135 for September but deducted \$90 for the advance and gave him \$45. On Oct. 5th defendant borrowed \$45 on account of salary. He produced the counter foil, which defendant admitted. He never saw defendant after that, defendant leaving his employment on that day without leave or notice and never coming back. He heard he had gone to Japan about October 7th. He had paid £36 15s., being cost of passage in advance, and this at 1/11 $\frac{1}{2}$ came to \$375·32.

There was no cross-examination.

Defendant said he admitted he received \$50 at Singapore. \$60 was advanced in Hongkong, and \$100 in September last. He repaid \$25 at Singapore to plaintiff's manager, Mr. Whitefield. Plaintiff stopped \$45 out of his salary for September. He admitted owing \$145. At the beginning of October plaintiff said he would deduct the money advanced for his passage at the rate of \$15 a month, and as he did not think plaintiff was entitled to do this he left without notice.

His Lordship gave judgment for plaintiff, remarking, however, that he did not suppose plaintiff wished to push defendant down to extremities.

Mr. Hastings—What we want is that he shall not work against us.

In the Straits Chinese Magazine for December a Straits Chinaman describes the reform movement among that section of the community as still active enough for him to counsel the Chinese of Malaya to start a college and technical school to prepare pupils, who will be sent to China to open schools and spread the light of civilisation there. The training of girls and the revision of the Chinese moral and social codes are recommended as the next points to be taken in hand by the reformers.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held on Thursday afternoon, the President (Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer) being in the chair. There were also present the Vice-President (the Hon. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police), the Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Mr. J. Dyer Ball (Acting Registrar-General), Mr. E. Osborns, and Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health and Acting Secretary).

GREETINGS FROM MR. N. J. EDE.

A letter was read from Mr. Ede, who is now in London, in which he said that as the Board would be considering the subject of refuse destructors shortly he was sending them the latest work on the subject. He sent his kind regards to his old colleagues on the Board.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by Mr. BALL, a resolution thanking Mr. Ede for his gift was passed.

THE PLAGUE AT CALCUTTA.

A telegram dated Jan. 16th was read stating that six cases of plague had been reported in Calcutta during the month.

THE COLONIAL VETERINARY SURGEON'S REPORT.

The report of the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon for the year 1898 was submitted.

Dr. CLARK said that with regard to Shaukiwan Market Mr. Ladds made no mention of the fact that five additional stalls were added 12 months ago. They were only temporary it was true, but still they had been added. Mr. Ladds also referred to the fact that in April last he drew attention to the close proximity of the Chinese mortuary at Kennedytown to the Inspectors' quarters. His observation rather suggested that nothing had been done. As a matter of fact it was not decided that the mortuary should be closed, but the nuisance was abated by taking away all the coffins which were smelling. The Board had already approved of plans and work was actually commenced for a new mortuary.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I beg to ask whether the Board has any information regarding the site of the New Western Market referred to by Mr. Ladds. Two months ago the Government consulted the Board and some of its officers on the subject but we have heard nothing about the matter since. The members of the Board and those officers of the Board who were consulted advised against the site in Taipingshan and it is a matter of interest to the Board to know whether anything has been definitely decided in the matter.

Dr. CLARK—The Board has not been consulted at all in the matter.

Mr. OSBORNE said he should like to ask whether it was within the province of the Board to consider and take action upon any of the suggestions made by Mr. Ladds, or whether it was the Government's place to take action without any recommendation from the Board. Mr. Ladds made a number of suggestions which he thought should not be passed over.

The PRESIDENT—The Board can make any recommendation that they think fit.

On the motion of Mr. OSBORNE, seconded by the VICE-PRESIDENT, the consideration of Mr. Ladds's report was adjourned until the next meeting, Mr. Osborne remarking that he had not had time to go into the report fully.

THE PROPOSED WASHING TANKS AT TAI HANG VILLAGE.

Plans of the proposed washing tanks at Tai Hang village were submitted.

Mr. OSBORNE said he happened to know that the Chinese of this colony would not wash clothes unless they were standing in the water. They had been trained from their infancy to wash clothes in this manner, and there was a great deal to be said in its favour. There was less labour, and if they proposed building tanks they should build them in such a manner that the Chinese would approve of them and use them.

Dr. CLARK said the washers could stand in the tanks proposed, though he did not think it was advisable that they should do so.

The matter was left over.

EAST POINT DAIRY FARM FHER FROM FOOT AND SOUTH DISEASE.

A communication, dated January 12th, was read from Mr. G. V. Ladds (Colonial Veterinary Surgeon) stating that "East Point Dairy Farm may be declared open again on Friday next the 13th instant."

THE WATER CLOSET QUESTION AGAIN.

A renewed application for permission to retain water-closets at the Ice Factory, East Point, was submitted. It was stated that the water used would be the salt water used in the condensing machinery.

The PRESIDENT—It appears that the present closets have been in use since January, 1881. Since then they have not caused any nuisance as far as I can ascertain.

Mr. DYER BALL—There was no authority for their being put in was there?

Dr. CLARK—They were put in before the Public Health Ordinance was passed.

The PRESIDENT—There was of course no Sanitary Board in those days to grant permission.

The VICE-PRESIDENT moved that the application be refused. He thought the out-fall was a very undesirable one indeed. It was only a bight of the harbour in which the tide did not flow as strong as it did outside. Anyone who had smelt the foreshore along Praya East at low water must know that it was a foul foreshore, which proved that there must be deposits there which were distinctly undesirable. In fact he had been in houses along the Praya East below Blue Buildings when at low water the foreshore near was a distinct nuisance. The more feculent matter which was deposited into the harbour the more foul that foreshore became. The question of water was his first objection. His second objection was on the general grounds of policy. It was a very good thing for a public department to have a policy. Government, both imperial and colonial, had suffered much through having no policy, and a Board such as theirs was likely to suffer too and make mistakes unless it was guided by a definite policy. He thought a recent incident would show this. It was not many months since they refused an application from the military authorities to allow water-closets on the Caine Road level for barracks to be occupied by European soldiers and their wives, and within a very short time the Board contradicted itself by allowing private householders to have water closets on the very same level. Decisions such as that were distinctly undesirable. They brought ridicule upon the Board, and left the public in a state of complete uncertainty as to what the Board would allow and as to what the Board would not allow. If it was right to refuse water closets to the military authorities it was right to refuse them to Mr. Belilos, and in any case it would have been better to have refused them to Mr. Belilos.

The question of water closets in this colony was a very big one. On sanitary grounds alone he was distinctly opposed to them. We had been free in this colony from various zymotic diseases which abounded in the neighbouring colony of Shanghai and in other places where there was much feculent matter in the sewers, and the best thing they could do was to proceed on the lines adopted in the past; and then there was a probability of their keeping free from such diseases. Looking at the matter from the point of view of water supply he thought it eminently desirable that there should be as few water-closets as possible in the colony. In the present instance this argument did not apply, because the water which it was proposed to use could not be consumed in the water supply of the colony. If his memory did not fail him the late Director of Public Works had a most exhaustive report on the water supply of the colony showing most conclusively that given a total consumption of 15 gallons of water per head—which he might remark in the hill district was exceeded to a very considerable extent—the water supply from certain works which he recommended in 1896 should be taken in hand in order to forestall the possible shortage of water in 1899, would not be more than enough—in fact it would not be entirely sufficient—for the population which he assumed would exist in the city and in the hill districts in 1899. They were in 1899, and according to Mr. Cooper the water supply was only just

enough. Mr. Cooper showed moreover that provided the population went on increasing at the rate of five thousand a year as it had been doing in past years in 1910 they would arrive at a state of affairs when the entire available sites for impounding water with which it would be possible to supply the city would be taken up. That was to say that there would be no more room to impound water for the city of Victoria and the hill district. He said at the same time that of course the population might not increase so very fast or that on sanitary grounds it might not be permitted to increase. In face of these facts he thought it would be madness to allow more water closets to be erected.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY, interrupting, suggested that Mr. May's remarks were out of order. He added that he was talking on a subject which he could not answer.

The VICE-PRESIDENT, continuing, said his arguments were entirely on the point. He opposed this application on two grounds—on sanitary grounds and on general grounds of public policy. These were the grounds on which water-closets had been opposed in this city in the past, and these were the very grounds upon which the Board some years ago laid down a policy which in his opinion it would be well to adhere to. He therefore begged to propose that the application be not granted.

Dr. CLARK seconded.

Mr. OSBORNE said he agreed with what Mr. May said as regarded the Board having a definite policy, but he did not think that "because old members of the Sanitary Board laid down what he considered to be a wrong policy they should adhere to it today." (Hon. R. D. Ormsby—Hear, hear.) As regarded European private houses generally, as he had said before he was opposed to the general introduction of the water closet system, because he felt doubtful as to the water supply, but the character of the buildings in this colony was undergoing such a change and those buildings were becoming so vast and so large a concourse of people existed under one roof, that the old water-carriage system became almost impracticable. If they were to remove all the water closets from all the buildings on this level and substitute for them the hand carriage system he thought the population down there would rise as one man against them. As regarded the stench on the foreshore, those of them who remembered the old Praya had a lively recollection of the stench down west, where he believed there was not a drain discharging from a water-closet, so that the stench was there whether they had such drains or not, and considering the enormous boat population and the large number of people on ships who emptied their refuse into the harbour, he did not think the addition of a few more would make any difference. As regarded this particular instance the water-closets had existed before. They did not seem to have been a nuisance to anyone. They were not connected with any other drains in the colony. They had an ample flush of water from these refrigerating machines, and he had therefore much pleasure in supporting the application.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY said he did not wish to interrupt the Vice-President in his remarks, but he thought they were not quite germane to the subject. The question of water did not come in, and to bring it up in that case might lead to erroneous ideas getting into the press on the subject. He did not come there prepared with an answer on the water question, but he thought all the objections raised by the Vice-President on that head could be met. As regards this particular application, he thought it would be very unfair of the Board to refuse it, because the water-closets had been in existence for 17 years. If it had not been that they were about to be re-constructed on a better plan he believed they would not have ordered their removal.

Dr. CLARK—Oh yes, we have ordered their removal.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY, continuing, said they had been in existence for over 17 years and it was proposed to improve them. They would only be used by three or four individuals, and he did not think that that would make much difference to a foreshore which was used by some 30,000 persons daily for the discharge of water closets out of ships and boats.

Mr. DYER BALL said he supposed there was no doubt that the granting of one single application would make very little difference, but every additional water closet granted to European houses increased the precedent in favour of others being granted in the future. They could scarcely find a worse position for water closets than near Causeway Bay, where if they granted the application, perhaps other establishments would want them at well. He must say that he thought these water closets were very bad in a colony like this, with a tropical climate and a beautiful land-locked harbour. He supported the resolution of the Vice-President.

On the matter being put to the vote the resolution was carried, Messrs. Ormsby and Osborne voting against and the other three for.

An application for permission to erect water closets and trough-closets at the new cotton-mills at East Point was then submitted.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said this was one of those applications which he was happy to say did not come within the category of hotels, hospitals, and blocks of public offices inhabited by a large number of Europeans. The number of Europeans in that place was only eight and the number of Chinese was very large. There were over 500 prisoners in the gaol, and they managed to get on there without water closets, and he did not see why these people should not get on without them. He proposed that the application be refused.

Mr. DYER BALL seconded.

Hon. R. D. ORMSBY proposed as an amendment that the architect be asked from where it was proposed to get the supply of water, and that the consideration of the application be postponed until they got the information.

The PRESIDENT seconded.

On the matter being put to the vote the President and Messrs. Ormsby and Osborne voted for the amendment, and the Vice-President, Dr. Clark, and Mr. Dyer Ball, against. The President gave his casting vote against, and on the motion being put it was carried by three to two, the President not voting.

ANALYST'S REPORT.

Mr. F. Browne, Acting Government Analyst, submitted a return of food and drugs analysed during the quarter ended December 31st. Of eight samples of brandy examined four were found genuine and four adulterated; of five samples of whisky two were found genuine, and three adulterated; and one sample of rum tested was found all right.

The Acting Registrar-General minuted—"Is the adulteration due to the addition of water or to the introduction of some deleterious substance?"

The Captain Superintendent of Police replied—"By the addition of water."

MORTALITY RETURNS.

The mortality returns for the colony of Hongkong for the week ending December 31st show a death rate of 13.8 against 18.9 for the previous week and 18.7 for the corresponding week the previous year. The death rate for the following week was 14.2 against 18.3 for the corresponding week last year.

The returns for Macao for the week ended December 25th showed 58 deaths.

The Board then adjourned.

THE CRISIS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

THE TENSION GREATER THAN EVER.

AGUINALDO'S ULTIMATUM.

Hongkong, 16th January. The news brought by the *Esmeralda*, which arrived from Manila on Saturday morning, shows that the tension between the Americans and the Filipinos is greater than ever, and that we may expect to hear at any moment that they have come to blows. When the *Esmeralda* left Manila on Wednesday evening Aguinaldo had issued an ultimatum in which he gave the Americans three days in which to make up their minds what to do, and in consequence the Europeans who had been residing on the outskirts of the city were moving into the centre in the anticipation of trouble before many days elapsed, whilst the natives were leaving the city for the provinces. Aguinaldo is issuing proclamations galore, one of his latest declaring that he and his compatriots will accept nothing short of in-

dependence, and that the Americans will not be allowed to have more than 6,000 troops for the protection of Manila and Cavite, which places he is apparently prepared to hand over to them.

There was quite a scare in the city on Wednesday afternoon. Asked as to what was the general state of things in Manila, a gentleman who came over with the *Esmeralda*, made use of the forcible expression, "D—bad." He added:—"I went on to the Escolta on Wednesday afternoon, and found everything just as usual. The American soldiers were rolling about in their aimless way, having the appearance of men on whose hands time hangs heavily; the streets were crowded; and business was in full swing. I could not help noticing, however, that everybody seemed on edge as if they anticipated some disaster, and two shopkeepers had already put up their shutters. I happened to step into the doorway of a shop when all at once a great crowd came rushing down the street. The soldiers had been called to quarters, and in less than five minutes there was not a single 'Boy in blue' on the Escolta. All the shops were closed as if by magic, and the streets were cleared of passengers and carriages in no time. So great was the hurry of the people in carriages to reach a place of safety, that some half dozen of them got stuck on the bridge and were completely smashed up.

I afterwards found out the cause of the commotion. The Insurgent pickets at the Race Course end of the city had attacked the Americans, and a general advance being anticipated all the soldiers were called in and a number of them turned out to repel the assault. On seeing the Americans massed in force, however, the Insurgents quietly withdrew.

The fact of the matter is, Aguinaldo cannot keep his forces in hand. It seems that they have not received any money for two months, and they want to get into Manila to loot the place. I believe it is the rabble which is causing all the disturbance and not the really educated Filipinos.

Admiral Dewey has sent word to the captain of the *Baltimore*, which is still anchored off Iloilo with the three transports, not to bombard Iloilo, the Admiral, no doubt acting in accordance with instructions from home. At one time three additional regiments embarked for Iloilo, but they were recalled before they could leave the Bay.

THE TENSION SUBSIDING.

Hongkong, 17th January. The tension in the Philippines is apparently subsiding, inasmuch as General Anderson has telegraphed for his wife and daughter, who left Hongkong in the *Esmeralda* yesterday together with the wife of Lieutenant Hale.

Information brought by the *Kingsing*, which arrived from Manila yesterday, was to the effect that General Otis had proclaimed martial law and that all the American troops were under arms and, with their guns, facing the Insurgent lines. The *Monterey* had also been placed in such a position that her guns could be brought into play in case of trouble. On Thursday General Otis issued a proclamation ordering all the women and children to take refuge in the warships at Cavite. This order does not seem to have been obeyed, however, as on Friday, when the *Kingsing* left, there were a good many women and children still in the city.

Last week a couple of thousand Spanish troops left Manila for Spain, and right glad did they seem at the prospect of seeing their mother country once more. Whilst they have been prisoners of the Americans they have fared much better than before, but the jeers and taunts to which they have been subjected by the Filipinos have galled them much.

The *American*, of January 12th, sets out the situation on that date as follows, though we have every reason to believe that the crisis was much more acute than the *American* makes out:

"On Monday last Major-General Otis appointed a commission composed of Brigadier General E. P. Hughes, Colonel James F. Smith, of the 1st California infantry, and Lieutenant Colonel E. H. Crowder, judge advocate, U. S. Volunteers, to meet a commission of a like number, appointed by General Aguinaldo, and to confer with regard to the situation of affairs and to arrive at a mutual understanding of the intent, purpose, aim and desires of the

Philippine people and the people of the United States, that peace and harmonious relations between these respective peoples may be continued.

Pursuant to these orders a meeting was held on Monday evening at which a delegation of the most prominent merchants in the city was present. The situation was discussed in all its features. After explaining their ideas to the American officers, the Filipinos agreed that their side would take no further steps until their requests could be cabled to Washington and an answer received. The American officers agreed not to move against the insurgent army, or take any steps to disperse them until after further instructions had been received from Washington.

On Tuesday a long cablegram in cipher was sent to Washington fully setting forth the situation here. The same evening another conference was held and the matter further discussed.

Rumour has it that a cablegram of over 500 cipher words was received from Washington, but whether this is a fact cannot be stated. At all events matters remain quiet for the present and a more peaceful, settled feeling pervades the city.

There is no doubt but that the inhabitants of the city, both foreign and native, are under an intense strain and on the qui vive with excitement. This was demonstrated yesterday afternoon when suddenly, almost like a lightning flash, the word spread all over the city that the insurgents had forced an entrance. The Chinese dashed through the side streets like rats scurrying away when a cat is after them, and merchants quickly closed up their shops. The bugles sounded the 'call to quarters' and the 'call to arms' and within a very few minutes the entire army of occupation was either under arms or the men in their quarters ready for any emergency.

Street cars that were head down town were stopped by the soldiers who were hurrying back to quarters and were impressed into service. Rigs of any and every description were made use of by the men who were hurrying in answer to the bugle call. Nor did they wait upon ceremony, but if the driver objected to hauling the men he was relegated to the inside and a soldier took the lines.

The scare was caused by a guard using a revolver to kill a cur which snapped at him in the Divisoria market place on Calle Santo Cristo. Within ten minutes from the time the dog was shot the entire army was in quarters, the stores closed and the people barricaded in their houses. The same excitement was manifested in the walled city as in new Manila. To their credit, be it said, the American soldiers were the coolest of all. Amidst all their hurrying they found time to laugh and joke with the passers-by, but not a trace of excitement was to be seen; nothing but the air of one who had important business to attend to.

The coolest of all, however, were the members of the 4th U. S. cavalry. At their quarters, Adjutant Boyd was calmly issuing clothing to the men and Major Rucker was engaged in inspecting the improvements being made upon the grounds. All the officers and men were there and could have been on the march within a few seconds if necessary.

Investigations at the outposts failed to disclose anything unusual or exciting, and after a couple of hours waiting business was resumed all over the city the same as though nothing exciting had happened."

Hongkong, 18th January.

A Captain in the American Army who has just arrived at Hongkong from Manila says that matters are quiet there, and that instead of rioting and warfare, peace and independence are more than likely to be proclaimed. He says, in fact, that it is his opinion all trouble will cease before another week elapses. Aguinaldo's proclamation seems to meet with approbation; and the captain says it is the general opinion at Manila that if independence is proclaimed, America to only exercise a protectorate, the problem will be solved, and there will be an end to what might prove a kind of endless guerilla warfare if the requests of Aguinaldo are not considered to the extent he desires. The chief certainly deserves some consideration.

for if the American force captured the town seaward Aguinaldo took positions inland, entirely hemming in the Spaniards, consequently making matters easy for the Americans.

THE CHINA ASSOCIATION AND BRITISH POLICY IN CHINA.

At a meeting of the Committee of the Hongkong Branch of the China Association, held at the City Hall on the 28th December, 1898. Present, J. J. Francis, Q.C. (in the chair), the Honourable C. P. Chater, C.M.G., Thomas Jackson, C. S. Sharp, E. W. Mitchell, and F. Henderson (Hon. Sec.) The following resolutions were unanimously passed:—

RESOLVED.

1.—That unless some definite policy is adopted by the British Government in connection with affairs in China, and unless prompt action is taken to give effect to that policy, British Trade and British Influence in China are in serious danger of diminution.

2.—That the policy embodied in the term "spheres of influence" tends to the eventual dismemberment of the Chinese Empire, can only lead to war, and ought to be set aside.

3.—That the policy embodied in the phrase "the open door" ought to be clearly defined and strictly enforced even at the risk of war.

4.—That the policy of the open door, in our opinion, means that all rights and privileges obtained by any one power, under Treaty or Convention with China, should be common to all powers and their subjects throughout the Empire of China; that the action of any nation in endeavouring to obtain from the Chinese Government any exclusive rights or privileges should be deemed an unfriendly act, and that Great Britain should call upon the Chinese Government to refuse to grant any exclusive rights to any power and should support China, by force if necessary, in her refusal.

5.—That if any nation has any reasonable claim to exclusive influence in the Southern provinces of China—Kwangtung, Kwangsi, and Yunnan—that power is Great Britain, but that Great Britain claims no such exclusive privilege and will permit no other power to exercise any exclusive right.

6.—That the Revenue system of China is the greatest of all obstacles to the improvement of trade, to the increase of manufactures, to the opening of mines and the construction of railways in China and that the British Government should bring all its power and influence to bear on the Imperial Government to compel the unification of the finances of the Government, Imperial and Provincial, in the hands of a Special Service entirely manned by Europeans and worked on the plan of the Imperial Maritime Customs.

7.—That with the unification of the collection of revenues in the hands of a special Department as above, there will necessarily be conjoined an immense improvement in the policing of trade routes both by land and by water; and greater additional security for investments in China.

8.—That these resolutions be transmitted to Lord Charles Beresford and that copies thereof be sent to H.M. Minister in Peking, the Shanghai Branch of the Association, and the Committee of the Association in London.

F. HENDERSON,
Hon Secretary.

JNO. J. FRANCIS,
Chairman.

ARRIVAL OF THE ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS.

The second Battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, who take the place of the King's Own, arrived on the 13th January in the chartered transport *Avoca*. The vessel went alongside the wharf at Kowloon and at about half-past eight the landing of the baggage began. The disembarkation of the troops took place in the afternoon, the men proceeding to the barracks vacated by the King's Own. The following are the officers:—Lieut.-Colonel Rowland Bringhton Mainwaring (in command), Major Frederick Morris, Major Sir Robert A. William Colleton, Bart., Captain R. S. Webber, Captain C. L. Baneroff, Captain Sir H. W. McMahon, Bart., D.S.O., Captain H. M. Richards, Lieut. H. Rotherham

Lieut. A. Hay, Lieut. G. F. H. Dickson, Lieut. O. de L. Williams, Lieut. and Adjutant C. M. Dobell, Second Lieutenants G. Hill, F. J. Walnyn, W. Lloyd, F. A. Stebbing, C. A. Ball-Acton, and G. J. P. Greiger; and Quartermaster J. F. Clieve (Hon. Lieut.).

Mrs. Mainwaring, Mrs. Morris, Lady Colleton, Mrs. Dobell, and Mrs. Clieve arrived with their husbands.

In addition to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers the *Avoca* brought the following passengers:—Major and Mrs. Griffin, R.A., Lieutenant Stevens, R.E., and Mr. Bryant, R.E. Staff, from Southampton; Captain and Mrs. Carlyle, A.O.D., from Singapore; and a warrant officer, 35 non-commissioned officers and men, 5 women and 3 children. Included among the non-commissioned officers are six drill instructors for the Chinese Regiment to be raised for Weihaiwei.

THE LOSS OF THE "GLENAVON."

THE ADJOURNED ENQUIRY.

On 13th January the enquiry into the circumstances connected with the loss of the *Glenavon* was resumed at the office of the Harbour Master. Commander Rumsey, R.N., Stipendiary Magistrate, presided, and the other members of the court were Staff-Commander Rogers, of H.M.S. *Tamar*; Captain Archibald, of the *Empress of China*; Captain Mowatt, of the *Athenian*; and Captain Evans, of the *Monmouthshire*.

Captain Pithie on being recalled said—The ship foundered about three-quarters of an hour after striking. Four lives were lost—William Dixon, chief officer; W. Smith, quarter-master; Frank Wilson, second steward; and a Chinaman. Quarter-master Smith was the man who was at the wheel when the vessel struck.

William Stratton, chief engineer on the *Glenavon*, said—I had been on the ship for 12 years. I have a first-class certificate, which was issued at Greenock in 1876. I remember the ship leaving here on the 29th December. I was in the engine-room when the speed was set at 59 revolutions—that is eleven knots by the propeller, and considering the length of time since the ship was docked it would be about ten knots. I came up on deck after that, but I did not take any special note as to the ship's position with regard to the land. When the ship struck I was walking the deck with the doctor. After she struck I went down below and told the second engineer I thought there was something wrong and returned on deck again, where I met the carpenter, who told me there was eight feet of water in the forehold. I did not believe him at the time and I went forward with the carpenter to sound. From the soundings the fore part of the ship seemed to be full up. I went to the captain and told him. He asked if I could not keep her going for some little time, and I said "No." In my opinion nothing could have been done more than was done to save the ship. I left the ship by the third boat, and I and the other occupants were picked up the next morning by a Customs launch and brought to Hongkong.

By Captain Rogers—I don't know how soon after the ship struck the engines were moved. The second and fourth engineers were down below.

By Captain Archibald—There was no water in the stoke-hold or engine room.

By the President—I saw the ship disappear. There was no explosion. She went down by the head.

Robert Boyd, second engineer on the *Glenavon* said—I had been in the ship three years. I hold a first-class certificate. I was on watch on the 29th December when the ship left here. When the pilot left 59 revolutions were set by the chief engineer's orders. Previously our speed had averaged 50. She was not slowed down to let the pilot leave. About a minute and a half before the ship struck I got the order "Full speed astern," and 15 seconds after the order the engines were going full speed astern and continued to do so four or five minutes, when I got orders to stop the engines. A few minutes later I got orders to go ahead. Then I had orders to stop. Various orders were afterwards given the particulars of which I do not remember. The chief engineer came down shortly after the ship struck and told

me to put the pump connections on the No. 1 hold. I put on two of the engine bilge pumps and the donkey. They were set to work and were working about ten minutes after the ship struck the rock. That was all that could be done. I left the engine-room about four minutes before the ship went down. The chief officer called me up. I went up on to the bridge-deck and met the chief officer, Quarter-master Smith, and the second steward. They were all busy trying to get a raft fixed. There were two planks and they were trying to fasten them together. While we were doing this the ship went down and we had to jump into the water. There was no boat in sight. About 15 minutes after the ship struck the rock the chief engineer told me to stop the engines and make for the boats. I did so and the captain sent for the chief engineer. I told the chief officer the chief engineer had gone. I went to the captain, who told me he wanted the engines full speed ahead. I went to the one boat hanging at the davits and got three greasers out of her. I told them to go below and get steam. They went down below and remained about eight minutes, and then cleared out and would not go down again. One of them got away in the last boat that left the ship. They were Chinamen. I was working the engines after that. After they cleared out there was imminent danger. The ship was very much below by the head. When I received the last order the propeller was clear of the water altogether. I came up to have a survey for myself when the chief officer shouted through the skylight, "Boyd clear out, the ship's going down." I swam right to the beach, and the next morning a Chinaman saw me. He motioned to me to follow him, and I followed him to the other side of the island, where I met the captain. In my opinion as a practical engineer everything was done which could be done for the ship.

By Captain Rogers—I should say that the ship went down 40 or 50 minutes after striking.

By Captain Archibald—There were five boats, but none of them were in sight when I left. I think I swam about one and a half miles.

Frederick Salmon, quarter-master on the *Glenavon*, said—I went on watch at six o'clock in the evening of the 29th December. I relieved the lower bridge, I did not get any orders from the man I relieved. I did not notice at any time before the ship struck the position of the ship with regard to the land. I was in the wheel house most of the time.

By Captain Archibald—he fourth officer was in charge of the boat I got in. There were about 20 in the boat.

The court was then cleared, and the President and his colleagues consulted in private.

In the afternoon the second officer (Henry Clifton) was called. He said he had been second mate of the *Glenavon* for three years. At the time the ship struck he was in his room undressing. He at once dressed again and went on deck to get his boat out. The Chinese rushed into the boat, and the chief officer came along and told him that some of the Chinese were to remain and that he must take the lady passenger, the stewardess and some of the men. He accordingly took eight Chinese, of whom four were passengers, the lady passenger and her child, the stewardess, and two distressed British seamen. The boat was ready to leave the ship a quarter of an hour after she struck. The boat was kept alongside for about ten minutes, and then the chief mate told him to push off and stand by the ship, which shortly afterwards steamed away to windward. As he could not get up to the ship he decided to return to Hongkong. Shortly after that he saw the ship disappear. Then he saw the third officer (Inslie) in his boat. He said he had some water in his boat and wanted a bailer. Witness told him he could not give him one and told him to follow his boat and try to get to Green Island. At 10:30 they were picked up by a junk and they arrived at West Point at 8:30 the next morning.

By Captain Archibald—There was a fresh breeze, and a bigger sea than I liked for a boat.

By Captain Rogers—I was practically in command of all the boats when they were in the water. When I left the ship one lifeboat remained with the ship.

The Court was again cleared, and on being thrown open again in about ten minutes, The President read the finding of the Court as follows:—

"We find that the British steamship *Glenavon*, of which William Pittie was master, left Hongkong on the 29th December, 1898, at about 5.23 p.m., bound for the United Kingdom, with a cargo of 3,200 tons. The ship appears to have been well found with one exception, namely, that there was only one compass on the bridge, which was of necessity therefore used for all purposes, steering as well as bearings, though it does not appear that this attributed to the casualty. She appears to have been properly and sufficiently manned, and was in a good and seaworthy condition."

"That her draft of water on leaving here was 20 feet forvard and 12 feet aft."

"That after passing Green Island light at 5.54 p.m. a course was set S. 34 W. by compass, or S. 30 W. true."

"That at about 6.34 p.m. the course was altered to S. 15 E. by compass, there being no error in this course."

"That shortly after 7 p.m. the ship struck and sustained such severe damage that she foundered in about 50 minutes."

"That the crew and passengers were saved with the exception of the chief officer (William Dixon), one quarter-master (William Smith), the second steward (Frank Wilson), and one Chinese (Cheung Ip, No. 3 fireman).

"It appears from the evidence before the Court that the first course, S. 34 W. was set by the master as being a mid channel course between Lamma and Chung Islands, and though this course in the opinion of the court was not the best that could have been taken it cannot be considered as an improper course."

"From a position when the eastern end of Chung Island was abeam and one and a half miles distant it was the object of the master to alter his course to S. 15 E. so as to pass two miles east of Ling Ting Island. Again this course in the opinion of the court was not the best that could have been taken, as it passed only one and a quarter mile off the northern Ling Ting rock, a distance which was little enough, having in view a set of the flood tide to westward."

"The master gave orders to the third officer to take a four-point bearing of Chung Island and to let him know when it was abeam. The court is of opinion that in the darkness and owing to high land at the back a reliable four-point bearing was not taken, and that consequently an erroneous position was arrived at, making the S. 15 E. course an absolutely dangerous one, and that such an erroneous position was the principal cause of the casualty."

"The court is of opinion that the master did not exercise proper care in fixing this position. It cannot consider that a general direction to a junior officer to take a four-point bearing of an island itself more than two miles long, and which has to be passed at a distance of only one and a half miles indicates sufficiently careful and seamanlike navigation, though the court believes that the master's direction was carried out by the third officer to the best of his ability."

"Further it appears to the court that it is at least probable that there was a not inconsiderable lapse of time between the taking of the beam bearing of Chung Island and the alteration of the course to S. 15 E., and the ship continuing on the S. 34 W. course was continually making the S. 15 E. course more and more dangerous."

"After the S. 15 E. course was set no steps were taken to fix the position, and there is no other evidence before the court until a few minutes before the casualty, the chief officer, who was in charge of the deck, and the quarter-master who was at the wheel having been most unfortunately drowned."

"After careful consideration of all the points which have come before it the court is of opinion that the loss of the ship was caused by the wrongful act or default of the master in that the ship was not navigated with sufficient and seamanlike care, and it therefore directs that his certificate be suspended for a period of 12 months from the date of the casualty."

"The court is of opinion that the boats should have remained by the ship as they were ordered instead of making for Hongkong as they did."

Had they done this it is possible that they might have been able to save the four lives which were lost.

"The court desires to place on record its high opinion of the conduct of the master, chief officer, and others who stood by the ship to the last and exerted themselves to reduce as far as possible the consequences of the casualty."

"Further the court also wishes to place on record their high opinion of the conduct of the second engineer, Mr. Robert Boyd, who stood by his captain in the ship and did his duty below alone to the very last."

"The master, is he so desires, may be granted a first mate's certificate. The master's certificate having been lost with the ship cannot be given up."

THE PANTOMIME.

The fifth and, for a time, the last performance of the pantomime "The Yellow Dwarf" was given in the Theatre Royal on Saturday evening, when there was again a crowded audience. Though many present had seen the performance before they enjoyed it none the less, the capital local hits which were introduced no doubt largely contributing to this result. The new regiment—the Royal Welsh Fusiliers were naturally brought on to the carpet, special mention being made of a peculiarity about the dress of the officers which has been puzzling us all. We refer to the black ribbon which hangs from the back of the collar and which resembles so much the old pig-tail in vogue a hundred years ago. If we are not mistaken this is what it is intended to resemble. The Welsh Fusiliers being allowed to retain their queues when the other regiments were despoiled of theirs. "Wideawake's" criticism of Lord Charles Beresford, which appeared in the *Daily Press* the other day, was utilised, whilst jokes were cracked at the expense of various public men both in the colony and out of it. Mr. Sexton, who so ably fills the rôle of the King, was warmly applauded on his making his appearance as was also Mr. Caldwell as the Queen. Mrs. Fullerton, who makes such a charming Princess Alifair, sang exceptionally well. After her first vocal effort she was recalled and a tribute of flowers was handed to her. Little Queenie Lambert was as popular as ever, presents, floral and otherwise, being showered upon her. Her souvenirs of the pantomime of 1899 will be numerous indeed. A children's performance will be given on Saturday afternoon, and three other performances are advertised.

H.M.S. "IMMORTALITE'S" COMMISSION.

H.M.S. *Immortalite* left Hongkong on the 16th January with the home pennant flying. She commissioned on the 19th of November, 1895, at Chatham, with a complement of 505 officers and men. Her trial trip took place on the 27th November, and she was inspected by Admiral Wells on the 30th. Two days later she left for Spithead; the next day she went from there to Plymouth, sailing from that port for Hongkong on the 3rd December. In the Bay of Biscay she did circular trips and gun testing, arriving at Gibraltar on the 7th December. Christmas Day was spent outside Port Said, and she arrived at Hongkong on the 1st of February, 1896. Since her arrival in the East she has done duty in the waters between Singapore and Hakodate in Japan. By the time she arrives home she will have steamed about 43,000 miles exclusive of many hundreds in and out of several harbours during steam trials and firing. During the first half of her commission she did 20,569 miles. The amount of coal that she will have consumed by the time she reaches England's shores will not be far short of fifteen thousand tons; it might possibly exceed that, as it is not certain that she will go direct home for two or three months. Her officers and crew have had a busy time since leaving home, and during the several scares out East have been continually on the move.

The places visited by the *Immortalite* during her commission are: Gibraltar, Malta, Port Said, Suez, Aden, Colombo, Singapore, Hongkong, Formosa, Pescadores, Nagasaki, Port Hamilton, Port Laceret, Hakodate, Akasaki, Undermo-

Otaru, Kosuna, Barracouta, Kornoloff Bay, Fusan, Chemulpo, Amoy, Tamsui, Chefoo, Shanghai, Okata, Yameda, Goshkirtsch, Yokohama, Port Arthur, Chusan, and Manila. Most of the ports have been visited several times, so the engineering staff and stokers have been kept well employed. Practice in other departments has been well sustained, and the crew have had plenty to do whilst at target practice, outrigger and spar drill, manning and arming, small arm drill, gun and tube firing, clearing for action, big and small gun firing, night firing, torpedo practice, and cutter and pinnace rigging. The crew will certainly deserve their six weeks' leave on arriving at home.

Since this vessel has been on the station the crew has seen six other vessels go home to pay off, and fifteen have paid off on the station, the crews having been relieved by boats sent out for that purpose. When the *Immortalite* joined the fleet, there were on the China station 30 vessels of various descriptions, and since then ten more have been added. Other nationalities the crew have sighted, or have been in harbour with, are: 12 French, 24 Russian, 2 Dutch, 1 Italian, 14 Spanish (at Manila), 3 Portuguese, 1 Austrian, 10 German, and 10 American vessels, which have comprised battleships, cruisers, torpedo-boats, etc. Of court-martials there have been seven held on board, and all who have been unfortunate to come under such a ban have received respectively, 6, 24, 12, 18, 24, and 12 months, as well as being discharged from the service.

Four poor fellows left the home shores never to return. C. Hooker, an able seaman, was buried at Yokohama; J. Joliff, a petty officer, in Hongkong; and J. Rogers and W. Richardson at Nagasaki.

Three of the crew, who were probably dissatisfied with the service and unwilling to serve their Queen longer, deserted, two being stokers and one an able seaman:

A few extracts from a diary, or log, as the bluejackets term it—one kept by a member of the crew, who seems to have been keen over its compilation—may prove interesting. He says:—On the 31st of August, 1896, a regatta was held at Otarranni Iskarri. One of the events was a sailing race for a cup presented by Admiral Buller, which Rear-Admiral Oxley won, in his own galley, after an exciting race during a half gale of wind. Whilst salmon fishing at Barracouta the Captain caught a fish which weighed 26 pounds. . . . On the 19th November, 1896, all the companies from the ships in harbour were invited on board to a smoking concert given in commemoration of the first year's commission. . . . Christmas of 1896 was spent at Nagasaki, when general leave was given and "beer served out twice." . . .

On February 22nd, 1897, the American flagship *Olympia* provided sports for the fleet; the next day the captain of marines on board the *Grafton* committed suicide. . . . After leaving Chemulpo on April 2nd it started to blow a gale of wind; we shipped heavy seas, which buckled the battery doors and "broke two of the boatswain's ribs" whilst he was engaged in securing the sheet anchor. . . . On the 18th of May a grand entertainment was given in celebration of the 18th month, or half of the commission. . . . At Chefoo, on the 22nd June, we celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee by firing a salute of 60 guns; we dressed ship with electric lights, made a V.R. with lights, and held a regatta.

We anchored off Shanghai on 28th June, dressed ship in honour of the Queen's Coronation Day, and saluted our arrival at the Chinese country with 21 guns. We then weighed anchor, took the pilot on board, and made for the channel. Whilst on the way a Chinese fort opened fire on us from two guns, and the shots passed about fifty yards off our starboard bow. We slewed round and went into action, loaded all guns, and steamed past the fort. [The Chinese did not fire again; had they done so the *Immortalite* would have opened fire]. . . . At Hakodate on August 30th the annual regatta took place; we secured seven second and three first prizes.

On November 25th an entertainment was given in honour of our being two years in commission. . . . [Another concert was given at the end of the third year]. . . . On Novem-

ber 19th, 1898, the fleet landed men ready for action, field guns, ammunition, and two days' stores in one hour five minutes. . . . The German flagship, *Deutschland*, came into harbour on December 5th with the "Mailed Fist" on board.

Nothing of much interest occurred since the last date given, as the vessel has been stationed at Hongkong for months, only making short trips now and again.

We should imagine the commission has been a good one, and we wish all on board a pleasant voyage home.

H.M.S. "GRAFTON" AND "ST. ENOCH" IN HEAVY WEATHER.

The *Grafton* was a few weeks ago sent to Singapore in order to meet and convoy the dredger *St. Enoch* to this port. H.M.S. *Melpomene* had towed the "mud searcher" from Aden to Penang, and from the latter place the dredger steamed unaccompanied to Singapore, where the *Grafton* took her in tow. On account of a severe monsoon, the cruiser took 15 days to make the distance. Singapore had only been left but a short time, when the monsoon came down upon them in full force, and the captain was compelled to seek shelter on account of the dredger. With difficulty Kamranh Bay was reached, where the dredger coaled and had new hawsers attached. The gale lasted about six days, during which the *Grafton*'s captain underwent rather an anxious time. The cruiser suffered no damage at all; but the weather was so bad that she had to be battened down. The dredger, however, was not so fortunate, for the continual strain and heavy waves caused many of her rivets to spring, and for several days she held from four to five feet of water in her engine room, to pump out which the *Grafton* had to lend a pumping machine. At times the sea ran so high that those on the *Grafton* or those on the *St. Enoch* could not see one another whilst in the troughs of the waves. Owing to the damage done, it is expected that the repairs necessary will compel her to remain here two or three months, and consequently dredging operations will not be commenced at Weihaiwei so soon as was intended. The *St. Enoch* is a nearly new dredger, and for some time was engaged at Malta. Her dredging capability is 800 tons per day. She is captained and officered by Britishers, but has a Maltese crew. During the heavy weather many of the personal effects of the crew were destroyed. The *Grafton* crew were kept hard at work the whole way up, and many of them felt its effects and will be glad of the rest in harbour.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

A REPLY TO "WIDEAWAKE."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
SIR.—The perusal of "Wideawake's" letter in your columns under date the 1st inst. certainly filled many with mixed feelings. The writer of this may claim to have lived nearly as long in China as "Wideawake" and may with due modesty claim to have had quite as good opportunities for studying passing events, which I suppose is what "Wideawake" means by the "Chinese question." I will take the liberty of skipping the first column and a half, much of which is irrelevant except to just touch upon the references to Sir Thomas Wade, Sir Robert Hart, and Sir Halliday Macartney. With regard to the first named, I was until now, in common with many others, under the impression that Sir Thomas Wade's policy as British Minister was entirely successful and that he is now commended in history as an able man. With regard to the two latter I am loth to believe "Wideawake's" bare word that they are entirely responsible for Great Britain's policy in China until he adduces some evidence of his at present unsupported statement. Surely we have had an Embassy in Peking continuously since Sir Thomas Wade's time, and also consulates at all the treaty ports. What were they doing all this time? They should have been well able to supply the Foreign Office with all the informa-

tion necessary with regard to China's resources, policy, etc. I shall therefore require something more than "Wideawake's" bare assertion on this matter. His offensive references to Irishmen may be dismissed in a word. Irishmen are just as able as Englishmen or Scotchmen and have just as much right to public and representative positions. They are no better and probably no worse than their neighbours. As far as being garrulous is concerned "Wideawake" would do well to remember that "people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones." I was very near forgetting "the impudent attempt to establish a Chinese Custom House, etc." I take it that "Wideawake" belongs to the general public who know positively nothing whatever of the terms of the convention. He had better wait till we know whereof we speak.

With your permission, sir, I will now pass to that portion of the letter under review which talks glibly of the "spheres of influence," in which we are told that Russia would get this and Germany that and France the other, &c., &c. You have only to step in and take your cake. We are to form a sort of zoological happy family. Great Britain is to take the Yangtze Valley. What does "Wideawake" mean by the Yangtze Valley? Does he mean the whole of the six provinces bordering on the Yangtze, or, in other words, one third of China? What stupendous nonsense. He is going to govern over 100,000,000 of people with a few thousand native troops "titled" with one regiment of Europeans. I'll venture to remark that nothing more nonsensical has been proposed since the days of Adam. And how delightfully inconsistent! In one paragraph "Wideawake" has no time for the Chinese Brava good or bad; in another he advocates his employment. I am too much of an amateur to sketch out a policy for China or any other country, but this I will say, if the Chinese soldier is well and efficiently led he will fight as well and as bravely as any other. He has done so in the past and will do again. Great Britain should at all hazards press upon the Yamen the immediate necessity of reforming China's financial and military systems. Every effort should be made to prevent Russia dominating Peking. Russia may be made welcome to her ice free port, but despite her immense armies it would be comparatively easy to block the port, or the whole Gulf for that matter, should she prove a foe, as long as Great Britain remains supreme upon the seas. With many apologies and thanks in advance, I remain, sir, your obedient and still unconvinced

OPEN DOOR.

Hongkong, 12th January, 1899.

ANOTHER REPLY TO "WIDEAWAKE."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
SIR.—Would you be kind enough to insert in your valuable paper the following lines with reference to the ridiculous attack made by "Wideawake" on Lord Charles Beresford's well-directed speech to the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce? One can only look upon "Wideawake's" remarks as an absurdity. Owing to a too long residence in China he may have forgotten all Western ideas and policy. The organisation of a well drilled and disciplined Chinese Army, mentioned in Lord Charles's speech, is a most essential thing for China to adopt in her present state and a most important step for the security of foreign trade and commerce, which was the chief object of Lord Charles's mission. Without such a force it would be impossible for China to cope with any disturbances prejudicial to foreign trade, missionaries, and residents. Have not all Western countries always thought it wise to call out their military force to suppress riots and disturbances when such take place, and why should China not do the same? That was why Lord Charles deemed it most necessary for China to have a well drilled and disciplined army at her disposal. With such a stable force at her back China could well afford to advance with other reforms in train.

Contemplation of spheres of influence would be very well if the trade question was left out altogether, or by any one who may like to see the "Big China" tumble to pieces without giving a hand to the saving of it. Supposing the countries mentioned by "Wideawake" were each

to have a big sphere of influence to themselves and so called it their own, nothing could injure trade more than this, because every country would then have its own tariff and consequently all sorts of obstructions would follow and finally might lead to disputes and troubles; whereas the open door would be free for all countries to trade and no preferential tariffs by different countries, and therefore trade would certainly be more felicitously carried on in China. Further, if the Russians were not checked in their present advance in the North of China they would in no time overrun the whole Chinese Empire. Of course whether the people would prefer to deal with the Russ or Chinese is a different thing.

VIEURO.

Macao, 13th January, 1899.

"WIDEAWAKE'S" REPLY TO "OPEN DOOR."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR.—As regards the reply by "Open door" to my previous letters I beg to point out that I am quite willing to concede that Irishmen have contributed their share to the building up of the British Empire, but I, at the same time, claim that they have not done more than their share. I also concede their right to hold political appointments and their ability to do justice to the positions they hold, but in the case of British policy in China and of China's policy with the outside world I maintain that Irish control has not proved an unqualified success—far from it; I should say it was a decided failure. It is of course a matter of opinion, and the public will be able to judge of the right or wrong of that opinion. Lord Charles Beresford's continual advertisement of the fact that he is an Irishman and allusion to what other Irishmen had done for China called forth my criticisms. I advocate British influence as opposed to Irish influence. I take my whisky with water and prefer more water than whisky in the mixture, as I find the raw spirit has an injurious effect on the brain; my mixture I call British.

The *nom de plume* "Open Door" has taken unto himself either with the hazy idea that there is only one way of keeping the door open or with intent to infer that I am opposing an open door policy. I claim to be as strong an advocate for the open door, when it is possible to keep doors open to trade, as himself, but I hold to a different method, that method being spheres of influence, in which 90 per cent. of the trade falls within the British sphere. Lord Charles Beresford hints at the break-up of China under certain contingencies and advocates coercion of China by a mixed force of British, German, American, and Japanese composition. I do not like the mixture.

Elsewhere in the paper containing "Open Door's" letter I find an extract from a speech by Lord Charles, referring to two Irishmen, Mr. Jackson and Sir Robert Hart. The references to the former are nothing more than he meritis, for all can unite in thinking him one of the ablest and best men in the Far East. Sir Robert Hart deserves credit for the very effective way in which the coasts of China have been provided with lighthouses, but when Lord Charles says that Sir Robert has provided the only available asset China ever had, in the shape of the Customs, he gives voice to a grave popular error. Sir Robert did not provide the Customs, the reverse is the case; the Customs was guaranteed for the first war indemnity, before Sir Robert ever joined that service. This is one of the numerous discrepancies in Lord Charles Beresford's speeches.

"Open-Door" says that I talk glibly of spheres, and would form a sort of zoological happy family. Well, I find Lord Charles Beresford in one of his Shanghai speeches, after his visit to the North and his return with the great big book which contains everything worth knowing about China, says—"What is the position of other countries? I think we may say, without exaggeration, Russia has got a very extensive sphere of influence; I think Germany has; but Great Britain, with 68 per cent. of the whole trade in its hands, has no sphere of influence, and so far as the North is concerned there is no open door. Is that the position we are to remain in? I think not."

This is after he has complained of being taken in as to the British sphere being the whole of the Yangtsze Valley, which he had felt thankful we had to fall back on as a sphere of influence. Further on he makes the following statement: "On the other hand the French sphere of influence comes in under a term which I could never understand called the hinterland; and the hinterland in the South happens to border on Hongkong." It is true the above is at variance with other of his Lordship's utterances, but that is only one of his trifling little inconsistencies, a mere matter of detail. By the way, these utterances were loudly cheered by his audience, as were on other occasions statements of a diametrically opposite nature. It seems it is merely necessary for his Lordship to speak in order to be vociferously cheered. Elsewhere I note a press statement, not one by Lord Charles Beresford, that Germany was opposed to spheres. There seems, however, no ground for such a statement.

"Open Door" then asks dramatically what does "Wideawake" mean by the Yangtsze Valley? Well, he means the Yangtsze Valley, nothing else. If "Open Door" desires a geographical definition of a river valley I might say that in this case it is the valley watered by the Yangtsze and all its tributaries, large and small.

As to the stupendous nonsense of governing 100,000,000 people with a few native troops stiffened with one regiment of Europeans, I did not go into certain details of my suggestion, which, after calling attention to another of Lord Charles Beresford's utterances, I now propose to do, for "Open Door's" edification.

In a Hongkong speech Lord Charles Beresford makes the following statement as to the Chinese Government:—"They have no navy, their ships are not worth the name—they have only one army of 7,000 men in the whole of this gigantic population of 400,000,000 people." I conclude that his Lordship had his great big book to guide him before he made this pregnant utterance. Is "Open Door," then, going to style this stupendous nonsense.

I see by referring to several encyclopedias that China is credited with a standing army of from 50,000 to 600,000 men; for all the use they are as a fighting force they might be only 500 or 600 men. I shall accept Lord Charles Beresford's estimate as fairly correct. As to their fighting capacity, I may say I have had the amusing experience of having observed a few half-naked savages, poorly armed, hold back a force of 2,000 fairly well armed Chinese braves for months from the foot-hills of one of China's southern provinces. There are large areas in the heart of China inhabited by aboriginal races who hold their own against the invincible Chinese brave with the greatest of ease. In these areas an armed Chinaman dare not show his nose. The few thousand native troops I proposed to use as a police force for the Yangtsze Valley I should have stated were Indian troops, at least half of them I had in my mind as such. I also had in my mind a railway from Shanghai up the Yangtsze Valley, linked on to the Indian railway system, with a branch from Hankow to Kowloon. Both these lines are, I may say, projected. I also saw, mentally, a flotilla of river gun-boats controlling the Yangtsze and its navigable tributaries. I likewise had in mind each province self-governed by native officials belonging to the province they ruled over and controlled or advised by a number of British officials associated with them, such local governments having their own police forces but no army. The presence of the army I alluded to, which might number anything from 8,000 to 10,000, or more, would be to support the native governments or, in the event of any attempt at resisting the supreme power, Great Britain, to hold such rebellion in check whilst reinforcements were pouring in by rail from India, or from England, Canada, and Australia by sea. Should Chinese troops be raised I should have no hesitation in using the men from one province to control another province, as the Manchu Government has always done. As to the inconsistency "Open Door" accuses me of as regards the Chinese brave, I beg to point out that iron will not cut the diamond, but diamond can cut diamond, and iron cut iron; therefore there is no great inconsistency in proposing the use of Chinese troops to control a Chinese population.

I should now like to say a word as to the Chinese soldier being equal to any other if efficiently led and as to his prowess in the past. A careful study as to when and where the Chinese soldier developed the fighting powers attributed to him fails to unearth any substantial reason for such a strange belief. The whole delusion seems to have arisen with the force termed the "Ever Victorious Army." This army, I believe, never exceeded 10,000 men, in fact rather more than half that number would about cover the numerical strength of the force. This small force crushed a rebellion which had wrested more than half the Chinese Empire from the failing Manchu Dynasty and which would, but for foreign intervention, have driven out the Manchus from the other half and established a purely Chinese Emperor on the Dragon Throne. We know the use the Manchus have made of the fresh lease of power given to them by British aid. The above only proves my assertion as to the small force necessary to control the British sphere.

All the world has heard of the Ever Victorious Army, hence the assumption that the Chinese brave properly led is a great fighting factor. I will now mention one fact to which due weight should be given. At about the same time as the Ever Victorious Army was covering itself with laurels a Chinese force, estimated at between 10,000 and 20,000 men, in the neighbourhood of Shanghai began to give the European residents serious trouble; these men were Chinese Imperial troops. Well, a body of about 40 European Volunteers engaged this force and hunted it completely out of the neighbourhood. His engagement is well known to Shanghai residents and is termed the battle of Muddy Flat, owing to the nature of the locality at which it was fought. It is utter rot to extol the Chinaman as a warrior.

"Open Door" says that as long as Britain is supreme on the seas she can, in spite of Russia's immense armies, block her ice free port, or the whole Gulf for that matter. True, but, methinks, that would savour of the process termed "cutting off one's nose to spite one's face." Russia's objective is China, and blockading the Gulf of Pechili will not keep Russia out of China, but it will keep British trade out of the northern area occupied by Russia.

I had not intended to write so much when I settled down to reply to "Open Door," but to condense what I have stated above would be to fail to make the points I have aimed at. I shall in future leave "Open Door" or other critics unanswered, for the subject might easily become an endless one.

WIDEAWAKE.
Hongkong, January 16th, 1899.

THE OPEN DOOR AND SPHERES OF INFLUENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR.—I cannot lay claim to more than fifteen years' residence in the East, but have a word or two to say to "Open Door."

First, I would assure "Wideawake" that he stands very far from alone in the views he expresses. Let him be patient and he will soon find out that there are strong influences at home which favour a like policy, and the nearer the date for the assembling of Parliament approaches, the greater likelihood is there that these influences will be shewn in the Press. A little time will shew if I am not correct.

Although there is much irrelevant matter in "Wideawake's" letter as "Open Door" says, the latter has a very "tall order" on hand if he undertakes to shew that Sir Thomas Wade's policy in China was "entirely successful." Every mercantile man who has ever made the slightest pretence of studying the history of our commercial relations with China knows otherwise. Perhaps "Open Door," in spite of his lengthy residence in China, has never heard of the Chefoo Convention and all the trouble it has caused, or, if he has, he probably looks upon it as a British diplomatic triumph. "Open Door" also asks, "What the Consulates were doing at the treaty ports?" Well, they were doing then as little as they do now to further British interests. It is a notorious fact, and a patent one to any Britisher who has ever resided at a treaty port, that our Consuls are not only unwilling to help a Britisher in developing British trade, but are at times a

positive hindrance. I am not speaking of individuals—there are exceptions—but of British Consuls generally. There are very few indeed who could write their annual trade report from their personal knowledge, but when it comes to Chinese and the Chinese language, then they are all there. It is a common thing to find, in the *China Review* for instance, prolonged squabbles between Consuls as to the pronunciation or interpretation of some antediluvian Chinese character. I know for a fact that Lord Charles Beresford was greatly surprised when, at two of the treaty ports, he got a very straight opinion on Consuls and their uses, in each case from a committeeman of the local Chamber of Commerce.

I happen to have before me (it matters not how I got it) a succinct account of Lord Charles Beresford's tour from the time he arrived at Newchwang until his arrival in Hongkong, what he saw, and what he said. It would surprise those who see in the gallant Lord the saviour of British interests in China if they knew how much of his time was spent in calling upon Chinese officials, inspecting forts, arsenals, docks, etc., and how much in really trying to study matters of vital commercial interest to the different communities he visited. Lord Charles Beresford has done his country excellent service in the past, and will doubtless do so in the future, but it does not necessarily follow that he is able to grasp and solve all or any of the many commercial problems which have been put before him during his tour. *Ne sutor ultra crepidam* is an ancient but excellent proverb.

And has Lord Charles told us anything new, has he told us in his many responses to the toast of his health anything that we in China could not have told him? Has he even committed himself to any particular policy? I cannot find that he has, and it is possible the Open Doorites may find themselves woefully mistaken in Lord Charles.

"Open Door" accuses "Wideawake" of "talking glibly" about spheres of influence. It seems to me that the boot is on the other leg. "Spheres of influence" have been already formed in China, and will grow, whereas the "open door"—well, as the so-called "Member for China" puts it, there is no "open door."

A word or two now on "Open Door's" eulogy on the Chinese soldier. Are we always to have the victories of the Ever Victorious Army against the rebels rammed down our throats as shewing what a brave man the Chinese soldier is when "efficiently led"? Does "Open Door" imagine, for instance, that, had the Sirdar been in command of the Chinese army during the war with Japan, the result would have been any different? Fancy the Yamen undertaking by itself the financial and military reform of China! The date on which the Yamen is likely to begin even to think of anything of the kind may be put down as somewhere near the Greek Kalends. They may, however, have to do it, or it may be done for them. Russia is already shewing them how to do it in the North and cannot be long before Germany and France follow suit. And here I would recall the able letter of "Sinensis" (whose identity is well known to us all) in the *China Mail* of 12th February, 1887. He says, *inter alia*:

"Let those Chinese who have a mind to raise themselves and their nation along with them first find out the true cause of their country's degradation and then apply the proper remedy. Do not rely too much upon the reorganisation of your army nor the increase of your navy, nor upon your new forts and guns, the want of which has, without doubt, reduced the strength and position of China, but to a limited extent only. The real weakness of China, however, lies in loose morality and evil habits, both social and political. . . . My object now is to deal with the political. Righteousness becomes a nation, but it does more. It is her backbone and fountain of strength. . . . Where is China to find all the funds to pay for her increased armament, to work her mines, to run her railways, and to establish and maintain her factories? Her credit is good at present in the foreign market, yet that has a limit, and that limit will soon be reached. When the revenue derivable from the Imperial Customs becomes fully pledged,

foreigners will not so readily lend except on the condition that they should have some control or management of the enterprise for which the money is to be loaned."

Quite so, and that is the stage we have arrived at.

And now we come to the quadruple alliance which is to work untold wonders, for British trade first—and anything you like after that. Most people take it for granted that Japan's co-operation is assured because she would benefit by an "open door" policy, but Germany knows perfectly well and so do I imagine, our Home authorities, that Japan has no friendly feelings towards the Fatherland. Those who go bare-headed for this alliance either do not know or lose sight of the fact that Germany was the real cause of the retrocession of the Liao-tung Peninsula after the war, and Japan will never forget that. With Russia alone she might have settled, but Germany and Russia were too much for her.

Further, in Japanese papers, Prince Henry of Prussia is reported in a recent utterance to have said that he has the greatest contempt for the Japanese soldier as being only one degree removed from the Chinese "brave"! and yet folks talk of an alliance between these two countries as the most natural thing in the world. How utterly impossible the whole thing is. Japan has already, beyond a doubt, her eye on the province of Fubkien as her sphere of influence, as lying opposite Formosa. They have made an elaborate survey of the whole province, and have recently acquired concessions both at Amoy and Foochow; these are signs that cannot be disregarded.

"Open Door" is absurd when he says "Wide-awake" suggests the "taking" of provinces in the Yangtze Valley. We should not take the six Yangtze provinces any more than Germany has taken Shantung, but we should take good care to dominate the great waterway itself and the ports on it, which would be a pretty good "sphere of influence" to begin with.

There can be no mistake about it. The "sphere of influence" has already come and has come to stay; others have begun and we shall have to follow; and though, like "Wideawake," I belong to the minority, I am convinced that the "open door" is a phantom not worth pursuing; it does not exist, and never will exist.—Yours faithfully.

B.

Hongkong, 16th January, 1899.

CHINA AND HER IRISH ADVISERS

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Sir.—The letter of "Wideawake" in your columns seems to have created considerable interest and discussion. His opinions are only opinions and are to be taken *quantum valeant*. His assertions are plentiful and loose and may in many cases be traversed. I have nothing to say about them, but the animus he displays against Irishmen and Ireland provokes remark. He opens by laying the blame for the present position of things on three Irishmen. Of course that is bosh, but when he starts out to tell us all that he knows and thinks, he ought to be sure that his facts, "unpleasant" though they be, are facts, and when he makes two Irishmen and one Scotchman into three Irishmen he is a little wide of the fact. Sir Halliday Macartney hails from north of the Tweed and the merit or demerit of his acts are not chargeable to the "distressful country."—Yours,

PAT.

Canton, 18th January, 1899.

Some remarks made by our correspondent imputing motives to "Wideawake" have been struck out of the above letter. If any interest attaches to the nationality of Sir Halliday Macartney we have no objection to our columns being used for the clearing up of the point, but any letters on the subject sent for publication must be free from offensive allusions. In "Who's Who" neither the parentage nor place of birth of Sir Halliday Macartney are given. He was educated at Edinburgh University, but that in itself would not make him a Scotchman. "Wideawake" says he is an Irishman, "Pat" that he is a Scotchman, and there for the present the matter rests.—ED. D.P.]

FOOTBALL.

MR. LOOKER'S TEAM VERSUS FLEET.

On Saturday, before about 1,000 spectators, the above teams played a game under Association rules, the Fleet winning by 4 goals to nil. The home team was not well represented, and at the last moment Kew took the place of Wilson as centre half. During the first half a capital game was played by both teams; but each fell off during the second part, although it was in the latter half that the Fleet did three-fourths of its scoring. M.S. Victorious supplied five of the players, and it was mainly through the good play of two of them that the Fleet won a decisive game. Kane and Millar were in their best form and often delighted the spectators, especially those of the same cloth, with their brilliant wing play. The Fleet's backs were in good form, although Arnott on two or three occasions gave corners. Wicks at half and Butland centre forward gave a good account of themselves. Moore, under the bar, was in great form, and two or three of his saves were brilliant indeed. This cannot be said of the Hongkong goal keeper; he certainly ought to have prevented the ball from going through on two occasions. Of the two backs, Lapsley was called upon most, and he did exceedingly well. Kew did very well in the half-back line, but Looker was the pick of the three. He had more than he could do against Kane and Millar, and it was often amusing to see how they manipulated the ball and frustrated all his efforts to obtain possession. Noble's pace served him well, and he often did some smart things; but he utterly failed in shooting when he had the opportunity to score. Barlow played a plodding, hard game throughout.

Following are the teams and positions of the players as they lined up:

HONGKONG.	
James	
Anton	Lapsley
Looker	Kew
Barlow	Grieffiths
Libbitt	Mayson
	O
Kane	Butland
Millar	Broad
Sorton	Wicks
	Marryat
Ashdown	Arnott
	Moore

FLEET.

On resuming, Kane and Millar on the left wing were in evidence, and the former scored within a minute of the restart. Less than three minutes later, the same pair secured again, and from a capital centre Wicks sped forward and sent home a third goal, which James should have prevented, but he over-kicked at the ball, and it sped past him. Three corners, one to the Fleet and two to the homesteaders, were given in quick succession, but no goals resulted. Hongkong attacked, and for a time the Fleet was kept busy in defending the goal. Smillie essayed a shot, but the ball went wide of the mark. The play from this point to within ten minutes of the finish was not as good as previous play, and many wild things were done, the Fleet, perhaps, showing the better combination. Just on the call of time, when the Fleet was engaged in a hot attack, Kane and Millar secured the leather, and both carried it to the centre within easy shooting distance, but Kane slipped as he kicked, and the ball would not have reached the net had not Broad rushed forward and done what was necessary. Soon afterwards time was whistled, and the Fleet left the field victorious with four goals to its credit, against Hongkong's none.

ARTILLERY AND R.E. VERSUS FLEET.

On the Hongkong Football Club ground on 17th Jan., the public were treated to a game under Rugby rules, the opposing teams being Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers against the Fleet. Although the match was very one-sided a capital game was witnessed by several hundred spectators.

The teams selected were as follows:

FLEET.	
Back—Hayes.	
Tomkinson, Reid, Wall, Lewis.	
Neville, Strong.	
Pike, Wilson, Sheward, Peile.	
Warren, Semple, Jones, Grieve.	
O	
Bannerman, Rundall, Loring, Izat.	
Thwaites, Colville, Castle, Brown.	
Shewell, Stivens,	
Wilkinson, Campbell, Davis, Badham-Thornhill,	
Back—Thomson.	

R.E. AND R.A.

When the teams lined up Brown was absent, so the Army played one man short. The Army men started the ball, and a scrum was formed in the Fleet's quarters. The oval was sent into touch two or three times, and during the scrums the Army got the best of the heeling out; then the Fleet buckled to and gave Tomkinson an opportunity to put in a sprint, and he looked like going over, but Wilkinson smartly collared him. The soldiers relieved, and they pressed Hayes close, because he was frightfully slow in getting in his kick. A punt by Wall was accepted by Wilkinson, who should have been allowed five yards before being tackled, but Tomkinson upset his equilibrium, and consequently gave a free kick. On the kick being taken Wall secured the ball, made a clever zigzag run, and almost got over; he was compelled to pass, which he did rather wildly. A scrimmage was formed five yards out; the forwards heeled, Neville secured and gave to Tomkinson, who ran in at the corner. Wall's attempt to place a goal, however, was futile. For a time the play was fairly even until Neville got possession. He put in a capital run and scored midway between the posts and corner touch. Tomkinson completed matters by placing a "rattling" goal. This gave the Fleet a lead of 8 points. Wall made another sprint and jumped completely over the head of a player who tried to tackle. Neville was prominent with a good run half the length of the field, scoring in a good position, but it was not negotiated into the major point. Several long exchange shots were indulged in, and two or three hard scrums, which the Fleet got the best of. By good play on the part of the halves and Campbell the soldiers were able to get well into the Fleet's twenty-five, but Neville relieved the pressure. Sprints were made by Reid and Neville, but they could not get over. Davis and Campbell tackling in grand style. Shewell and Davis, just on the call of half-time, were conspicuous, but they failed to score, and the first h. If closed with the Fleet 11 points to the good.

During the second half the Fleet touched down twice, one of them resulting in a goal,

well placed by Tomkinson. The negotiator was often prominent with occasional sprints and good tackling. Neville scored once, and otherwise worked hard. Strong, his colleague, played a much better game during this half, and he fed his three-quarters with judgment. Sheward was, perhaps, the most prominent forward, and he scored a try. Piele was also well to the front. The Army backs did not have the opportunity of scoring because their forwards failed to heel the ball for the halves to feed the three-quarter line. The greater part of the game the back division was kept on the defensive. Campbell played a capital game, and Davis would have been difficult to stop had he have been given a chance with the ball oftener. Shewell was the best of the two halves, and of the two backs Thomson gave his opponent points. The score by the Fleet during this half, totalled with that of the first, amounted to 19, being the result of 2 goals, 3 tries to the Army men's nothing.

CRICKET.

ROYAL ENGINEERS v. H.M.S.

"IMMORTALITE."

If H.M.S. *Immortalite*'s cricket team continues in the way it has of late as far as success is concerned, the meaning of the vessel's name is appropriate indeed. The team has won five games in succession, some of them very decisively. Although its members were not able to knock up such a big score in the return match with the *Victorious* on the 10th inst. as they did on the Saturday previous, they scored sufficiently to win; and, curious to relate, they disposed of the battleship's eleven for the same number (30) on both occasions. On Saturday last the *Immortalite*'s team met a team selected from the Royal Engineers, and the shoremen were badly beaten. It is not so much to the batting qualities of the "Immortalites" that they have been so successful, as to the bowling prowess of Course and Samuels. On Saturday these players secured five and four wickets each for 23 and 24 runs respectively. The bowling of the Engineers was not very destructive, and some of the bluejackets knocked up respectable scores, as will be seen by the tables below.

Since the *Immortalite* has been on the station her crew has been on the most friendly terms with the Engineers, especially those who engage in sport, and after the finish of the game on Saturday the teams were photographed. The man-of-war leaves this morning for Singapore, where she will await orders to proceed home.

Following are the teams and scores:

ROYAL ENGINEERS.

Moore, b Course	4
Wild, b Course	3
Capt. Mould, c Noble, b Samuels	8
Clark, run out	0
Lieut. Randall, c Course, b Samuels	0
Clarke, c Course, b Samuel	1
Sivier, not out	9
Major Jeffrey, b Course	1
Ceasar, c Spice, b Samuels	7
Scribbens, b Course	0
Spillard, b Course	9
Extras	5
Total	52

H.M.S. IMMORTALITE.

Course, run out	16
Austin, b Moore	8
Thorpe, c Jeffrey, b Sivier	12
Lightfoot, not out	54
Noble, b Moore	42
Samuels,	
Jeanes,	
Spice,	
Weeks,	
Boorman,	
Harrison,	
Total	127

H.M.S. "VICTORIOUS" V. "NARCISSUS"

Teams from the above man-of-war met at the Happy Valley on Thursday afternoon to try conclusions with the bat and ball. Hitherto the *Victorious*'s team, which is a newly formed one, has been unfortunate in getting beaten, but yesterday it won a victory, with plenty to spare; and to all appearances several of the batsmen are likely—if practice be maintained—to become efficient willow-wielders. The score of 39 by White was a

good effort, and Stewart looked like staying at the wickets for a time, but was unfortunately caught out with 14 to his credit. Smith, who is a fairly good bat, has experienced ill luck lately, and was sent back with seven to his account. On the other side Gibson was top scorer, with 23, and Martin was not far behind with 17. Geary and Smith shared honours with the ball, each securing six wickets. The teams and scores are as follow:

"VICTORIOUS."

White, c Martin, b Hallan	39
Stewart, c Geary	14
Ferguson, c Sweet, b Geary	11
Starkey, c Gibson, b Geary	8
Smith, c Woodrough, b Geary	7
Phillips, not out	7
Dadd, b Geary	9
Palmer, c Geary, b Hallan	6
May, b Hallan	0
Roxburgh, c Bardell, b Geary	0
Davidson, run out	0
Extras	5
Total	116

"NARCISSUS."	
Horbin, b Dadd	0
Hallan, c White, b Smith	2
Geary, c Starkey, b Smith	5
Gibson, c White, b Smith	23
Martin, c and b Dadd	17
Cheshire, run out	0
Houghton, b Smith	5
Bardell, c and b Dadd	6
Crossby, b Smith	11
Sweet, b Smith	3
Woodrough, not out	3
Extras	7
Total	82

THE ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.**QUARTERLY MEETING.**

Play for the various events of the quarterly meeting was concluded on the 16th inst. and resulted in some good scores being returned, especially against the "Colonel." The greens had slightly benefited by some very light rain a day or two before the competition commenced, but were still very lively, which proved again in favour of the long handicap. The winner of the cup and pool returned a very steadily played round, and had the card counted for "Bogey" he could have beaten the veteran by two holes.

Following are the returns sent in:

MACEWEN CUP.

Mr. E. F. Mackay	87	11	76
Lieut. Halsey, R.N.	101	12	83
Capt. E. Burnie	103	18	85
Mr. W. Taylor	97	10	87
Dr. J. M. Atkinson	102	14	88
Mr. C. W. May	88	0	88
Dr. J. A. Lawson	88	+ 1	89
Capt. R. M. Rumsey, R.N.	97	8	89
Mr. A. J. McClure	99	8	91
Mr. H. W. Robertson	102	10	92
22 entries.			

POOL.

Mr. E. F. Mackay	87	11	76
Lieut. Halsey, R.N.	101	18	83
Capt. Urmston, R.M.L.I.	83	0	83
Mr. J. F. A. Hastings, R.N.	96	12	84
Surg. N. J. Smith, R.N.	101	15	86
Dr. J. M. Atkinson	102	14	88
Mr. C. W. May	88	0	88
Dr. J. A. Lawson	88	+ 1	89
Mr. A. J. McClure	99	8	91
Capt. E. Burnie	116	18	98
19 entries.			

BOGEY CUP.

Capt. Urms on, R.M.L.I.	all even rec.	0 strokes
Mr. J. F. A. Hastings, R.N.	I down	9 "
Surg. N. J. Smith, R.N.	1 "	11 "
Lieut. Halsey, R.N.	2 "	14 "
Major Morris, R.A.	2 "	9 "
Mr. E. F. Mackay	3 "	8 "
Dr. J. M. Atkinson	5 "	11 "
Mr. H. W. Robertson	5 "	8 "
Capt. R. M. Rumsey, R.N.	5 "	6 "
Mr. A. J. McClure	7 "	6 "
Capt. E. Burnie	12 "	14 "
29 entries.		

The *Manila Times* of the 12th January says:—The unusually large number of funerals which have taken place during the last few days has roused the suspicions of the authorities, who are now on the qui vive. It is rumoured that arms were discovered in a hearse the other day by the military police.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.**FIFTH CLUB RACE, 8TH JANUARY.**

After light to moderate winds, the weather for this race opened with promise of a good strong north-easter, and the promise was well fulfilled. Most of the boats left their moorings with two reefs and small jibs, but on arriving at the starting line many of the crews hauled down another reef. As this was the first hard day since the boats were altered, many were curious to see which boats were most benefitted by the alterations, but the general opinion appeared to be that the new boat Bonito would shew the way round the course. She did not exactly do that, but she made a good show all the same, until it came to running, which is her worst point.

The course was Kowloon Rock, mark boat off Lyemun Pass, Kowloon Rock, and Channel Rocks, and down to the line off Kowloon point; 12 miles.

All the boats except Meteor in the first-class and She in second-class turned out, and tested their qualities in a strong breeze. In the A class the Erica and Bonito were the first two to shew in front, and by the time Blackhead's Point had been weathered they had secured a nice lead. The two Sybbick boats, Phoebe and Sybil, and the Active, found the weather too distressing and could scarcely beat against the savage wind and waves off the Point, the last named, owing to her low freeboard, taking in water very freely. At Kowloon Rock the Erica was about 2 minutes in front of Bonito, with Chanticleer and Maid Marian some 2 or 3 minutes after her, and the rest of the fleet some way astern. In the second class the Payne and Princess were doing very well indeed. Although starting 15 minutes after the first boats they had nearly caught Phoebe at Kowloon Rock, and gone away from Ladybird and Dart.

In the beat up to Lyemun Pass Chanticleer passed Bonito and rounded the mark boat second, about 4 minutes after Erica. In the run down to Kowloon, she reduced this to a little over a minute, as the Erica did not set her spinnaker for the run. The Maid Marian also gained a little on the Bonito near the mark by a judicious inshore tack near Channel Rocks.

The Phoebe carried away her peak halyards about here and gave up, and the Active went home from the Lyemun mark, having carried away her mainboom gooseneck early in the race. The Payne was going splendidly, shewing much better form than the other R.E. b at Sybil. Now she has altered her keel it would be as well to change places in the classes. In the run down to the finish the wind got lighter and a fast race was finished as follows:

A CLASS.

Erica	3 33	11	1st
Chanticleer	3 35	0	2nd
Bonito	3 41	57	3rd
Maid Marian	3 43	59	Dart
Sybil	3 54	30	

The points scored up to date are:

Erica	29	Dart
Chanticleer	24	Ladybird
Sybil	14	Payne
Bonito	5	Princess
Maid Marian	1	She
Active	1	
Meteor	1	

THE HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.**PEARSON CUP AND SPOONS.**

There were fourteen contestants for this event on Saturday last. The Cup was taken by Petty Officer Manning, of H.M.S. *Narcissus*, with a net score of 95. Scores:

SHOOTING.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

The January competition for the "Captain Francis" Carbine Challenge Cup between the Field Battery and the "A" Machine Gun Co. resulted in a win for the former by 29 points. Below are the scores:

FIELD BATTERY.

	200 yards.	400 yards.	500 yards.	Total.
Sergeant Hayward	29	33	32	94
Sergeant McPhail	31	31	31	93
Gunner Stewart	28	29	29	86
Sergeant Rutter	30	27	28	85
Sgt. Drum Brown	28	31	25	84
Bomb. Deas	27	23	30	80

"A" MACHINE GUN CO.

	32	32	31	95
Sergeant Smyth	30	33	28	91
Sergeant Skelton	29	32	27	88
Sergt. Underwood	21	23	29	73
Captain Sanders	24	26	23	73
Gunner Plummer	22	29	22	73

The "A" Machine Gun Co.'s monthly competition was fired at the same time. Sergeant Lammert scored the first win on the No. 1 cup and Gunner Plummer the first win on the No. 2 cup. The spoons were won by Sergeant Lammert and Gunner Plummer.

WANCHAI WAREHOUSE AND STORAGE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The ordinary general meeting of shareholders in the above company was held at the office of the General Managers (Messrs. Meyer and Co.), No. 5, Queen's Road Central, on the 16th Jan., for the purpose of receiving the report of the General Managers and statement of accounts to 31st December, 1898. Mr. T. G. Schroeter presided, and the other gentlemen present were Messrs. J. Orange, O. Von der Heyde, C. Rogge, H. Ebner, C. Schroeter, G. E. Huygen, H. Nölke, Kwok Alum, C. Rockstrohen, and Fularton Henderson.

The notice convening the meeting was read. The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report together with the accounts for last year has been in your hands for several days and in the usual way I may be permitted to take them as read. I do not think any explanation is necessary for the accounts, as they have been made up in the same manner as before and are easily understood. I need only add that Messrs. Palmer and Turner held the annual survey of our property at the close of the year and sent in their report declaring the premises practically in the same state of repair as when taken over by the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co. There is still one other point I would like to mention and that is the increase in the rents for piers which the Government published last year. You will have seen from the papers that the original high rates have in the meantime been withdrawn and I understand that they will be reduced, but whatever the charge may come to for our pier it is no matter of concern for the present shareholders as the amount has to be found by the lessees under the terms of our agreement. Nothing else of interest occurs to me, but before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be happy to answer any questions.

No questions being asked the report was adopted, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. Rogge.

On the motion of Mr. O. VON DER HEYDE, seconded by Mr. EBNER, Mr. F. Henderson was re-appointed auditor.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. I am obliged for your coming here. The dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow.

THE CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN AND MORTGAGE CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the second Ordinary General Meeting to be held at the office of the general managers on Friday, 17th February, at noon:

Annealed we have the pleasure to lay before shareholders a statement of account's as follows, to 31st December, 1898.

The total amount earned since the commence-

ment of the Company is \$37,434.14 and after deducting all expenses, remuneration to General Managers and Consulting Committee's and Auditors' fees, there remains a balance of \$24,738.37, which it is recommended be appropriated as follows, viz.:

To place to Reserve Fund \$ 4,000.00
To pay a Dividend of 40 cents per share 20,000.00

To carry forward to the credit of next year's account 738.37

Although the Company was registered on 19th February, 1898, the final call was only paid on 31st March, and for so short a period the results obtained cannot but be considered highly satisfactory. Some time necessarily elapsed at first before the aims and objects of the Company were fully understood by the public; but latterly there has been no dearth of business, on the contrary it is evident that our present resources are quite inadequate for all the employment that is open to them and that we can look forward with every confidence to the future of the Company.

Consulting Committee.—In accordance with the Articles of Association, Messrs. J. Lewis, J. S. Van Buren, Chow Hing Kee, and Chau Tung Shang retire, but offer themselves for re-election. It is with regret that we have to record the death of Mr. Wong Hoi Chow.

Auditors.—The accounts have been audited by Messrs. F. Henderson and W. H. Potts, who are recommended for election.

SHEWAN TOMES & CO., General Managers.

Hongkong, 14th January, 1899.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1898.		
Charges, preliminary expenses, lawyers' fees, &c.	\$ c.	
.....	1,538.50	
Allowance for office expenses	3,750.00	
Consulting Committee's fee	3,750.00	
Auditors' fee	200.00	
Balance	24,738.37	
		\$33,976.87
Interest on mortgages and loans	\$37,434.14	\$ c.
Less interest paid, commissions, brokerage, &c.	8,457.27	
		\$33,976.87

BALANCE SHEET.

LIABILITIES.		
Capital 50,000 shares at \$20 (\$10 paid up)	\$ 500,000.00	
Debentures at 6 per cent	3,900.00	
Sundry creditors	3,985.00	
Due to General Managers	13.64	
Balance of profit and loss	24,738.37	
		\$32,617.01

ASSETS		
Loans—Provident loans	\$34,589.33	
Loans on mortgage, goods, shares, &c.	95,163.29	
		520,752.07
Furniture	91.00	
Sundry debtors	672.11	
Cash	1,419.04	
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	682.19	
		\$32,617.01

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD AT SHANGHAI.

On the 8th January Lord Charles Beresford was entertained at a farewell banquet at the Shanghai Club by representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, the Shanghai Branch of the China Association, the Municipal Council, and the American Asiatic Association. Mr. E. F. Alford (Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce) was in the chair, and proposed the following resolution:—"That our cordial thanks be tendered to Lord Charles Beresford for the service he has rendered to Foreign Communities in China by personal investigation into the conditions of the various interests we represent."

Mr. C. J. Dudgeon, on behalf of the China Association, seconded the resolution.

Mr. J. S. Fearon, on behalf of the Municipal Council, supported the resolution and in the course of his remarks said that if Shanghai would remain the Model Settlement of the future, she had but to carry on the traditions of her past and to abide by her watch-word, Omnia Juncta in Uno. The introduction of questions of exclusive rights to any one nation-

ality could not but seriously prejudice the general welfare of the community, and it was devoutly to be hoped that such questions might not be raised in the future.

Mr. F. E. Haskell, who supported the resolution on behalf of the American Association, also referred to the question of Settlement Extension. He said:—We want this Settlement greatly extended, but we want no nationalisation of any of the territory embodied in the enlargement of our borders. We desire an area that shall in all times of trouble be what Shanghai was during the late war between China and Japan—an absolutely inviolable and neutral zone. (Hear, hear.) If, in Shanghai, extension is granted on any other terms it seems to me it would be the thin edge of the wedge to bring about the partitioning of China. The course pursued in the extension here will surely serve as a precedent elsewhere in China, and if we consent to enlargement for the special benefit and gain of any nation now, we only pave the way for further partitioning of the Chinaman's estate. I may say that the American Association has expressed this opinion in letters to the President of the United States, and the Minister at Peking; not, perhaps, in these words.

Mr. M. Rohde, speaking as a German, also spoke in support of the resolution, making a short and witty speech.

Lord Charles Beresford in his reply followed generally the same lines as in his speeches at Hongkong. In view of certain recent references to China's Irish advisers the following extract from the speech may be quoted:—In the remarks which I have ventured to make and those which I heard, I am delighted to think there has been no question as to which country would benefit the most. Given security any sound finances, there is no country which would benefit to the same extent as China herself. Just think of what Europeans have done for China, and remember that General Gordon was really the man who kept the present dynasty on the throne. Then we have Sir Robert Hart, who has provided the only available asset that China ever had in the shape of the Customs. That has all, as you know, been allocated to pay foreign loans, and Sir Robert Hart, if he had done nothing else beyond lighting the coast of China—which I say as a seaman is as well lighted as any in Europe—deserves the lasting gratitude of all nations. (Hear, hear.) And while we are cosmopolitan we must not forget that Sir Robert Hart is an Irishman. (Laughter, and hear, hear.) Talking of Irishmen I know another Irishman who has done a good deal for China, and I know, if there are banking interests represented in this room, they will be shivirous enough to agree with me when I refer to Mr. Jackson. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Jackson has done as much for British trade as any man in this country, and, as an Irishman I am proud to see him in the position that he holds, commanding the respect and esteem, not only of Chinese but of every foreigner having financial or banking interests in this country.

THE IMPERIAL KWANG-U.

The N. C. Daily News publishes the following translation of an Imperial decree issued on the 9th January:—

As we are not in good health all Court ceremonies, festivals, and banquets usually held during the closing month of the Old Year and that of the New Year are hereby commanded to be discontinued until further orders, with the only exception of that of New Year's Day, on which occasion we will present ourselves at the Head of the Princess, Dukes, Nobles, and high Ministers of the Court at the Huangchih Throne-hall to pay our New Year congratulations and obeisances to the Empress Dowager.

The translator appends the following note:—The Throne-hall where the above ceremonies are to take place on New Year's Day (10th February) is seldom used, and its designation Huangchih—Acme of Imperial Excellence—is, on an occasion like this, most significant. In other words the Empress Dowager has chosen that Throne-hall to emphasize her supreme power.

The editor of our Shanghai contemporary adds that a foreigner who saw the Emperor recently reports him to be apparently in excellent health.

FIRE AT SHANGHAI.

INJURY TO A MEMBER OF THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK'S STAFF.

A serious fire occurred at Shanghai on the 16th January, breaking out about 1 a.m. It originated, says the *Mercury*, at Ah Ping's furniture store and when the firemen reached the scene this and the next house—the Hotel Metropole—were already involved in flames. They set at once to work and in a remarkably short time had eight streams playing on the burning premises. Owing to the strong N.E. wind, blowing at the time and the lack of water power, the firemen made no headway in combating the element. The third house in the block, an opium shop, next caught fire and the fire escape was then put into requisition but the roof being of galvanised iron the firemen could not go on to it but had to play the hose from the ladder. The wax-work exhibition was also soon ablaze, but through the valuable assistance given by the salvage company, the police, and some residents most of the figures were saved. The Farm depot owned by Mr. Shaw was the next to catch fire, which raged with great intensity until the two next houses forming the block—the Curio store and the International Bicycle Company—were completely consumed. The whole block seen from the outside appears to be solidly constructed, but the inner walls were of wood and plasters, and this no doubt contributed to the spread of the fire from one house to another until the whole block was entirely swept away. It was a marvel that the block of houses at the rear escaped destruction, having wooden verandahs, and being divided from the burnt block by only a six-foot lane. The Insurance Companies seem to have been badly hit. As far as we can gather the following are the risks: Aping Tls. 25,000. Bicycle Co. Tls. 15,000. Metropole Hotel Tls. 4,000. The wax-work was uninsured, and so was an employee of the Central Stores who occupied the upper part of the house with his family consisting of six. They lost their all, and Inspector Wilson very kindly accommodated them at the police quarters. The property is owned by Messrs. Chingkee and is insured for Tls. 20,000. An unfortunate accident befell one of the firemen, Mr. Jackson, of the Hongkong Bank, who had a nasty cut on the face caused by a falling beam.

RIOT NEAR NINGPO.

TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PAO-WO MINING CO.

ATTACK ON THE FOREIGN MANAGER.

Mr. J. E. Rennison, foreign manager of the Pao-wo mine at Ninsikong near Niugpo, has arrived in Shanghai with a thrilling tale of outrage and attempted murder. On Sunday, the 8th instant, the third attempt to open the mine was made, Mr. Rennison, the Chinese manager, Mr. Chu Tze-ping, two Chinese officials, and forty soldiers being present at the ceremonies, which included the propitiation of the guardian spirit of the mountain. The officials brought a hundred soldiers altogether, but sixty were left a short distance off at Fungwa. There were about a hundred country people looking on, but there was no disturbance of any kind. After the ceremony was over, the Chinese officials went away, unfortunately taking their troops with them, and Mr. Chu Tze-ping went away on business to Sungan, a town near-by. Mr. Rennison returned at noon to the temple where he was staying, and where the stores, etc., for the mine, to the value of something under \$10,000, were deposited. About six o'clock, as Mr. Rennison was about to sit down to dinner, two soldiers who had thrown away their uniforms, came rushing in for safety. Soily afterwards, Mr. Rennison's boy came in, looking very scared, having armed himself with a chopper, and advised his master to take the carving knife—he had left his gun at Ningpo—as a mob of between two and three thousand men were coming up to attack the temple, and master every-one in it connected with the mine. Mr. Rennison, with his interpreter, a young fellow named Kang who stuck to him most gallantly all through, declaring that if Mr. Rennison were killed he would die with him,

barred the front gate of the temple, but at eight o'clock he was assured by Kang that it was hopeless to attempt to defend the temple, and they must fly to the hills. Mr. Rennison with his interpreter and his boy succeeded in scaling the back wall, about seven feet high, and getting to the hills, their movements being hastened by the noise made by the approaching mob. Kang succeeded by promises of a big *cumshaw* in getting a native with a lantern to guide them. They soon lost the boy, but Kang stuck to Mr. Rennison, and the two of them spent the night on the hills, hiding themselves in paddy fields or wherever they could find temporary shelter from the pursuit of the infuriated country people. In the morning, on their way down to the river, they got some food in a native house, and met fourteen of the priests belonging to the temple, who reported that the mob had utterly cleaned it out, destroying or carrying away everything they found in it. Mr. Rennison and his interpreter got back to Ningpo in a boat, where the former, who has lost every scrap of his worldly gear except the clothes in which he escaped, laid the facts before Mr. Playfair, the British Consul, who is making the necessary claim for reparation on the Taotai. It is stated that a fight occurred between the soldiers and the country people, in which two of the latter were killed and several wounded.

Mr. Rennison's experience is a warning to foreigners who are sent up country to open mines or make surveys of any kind without sufficient escort, relying on the power of the Chinese officials to preserve them from injury at the hands of the ignorant country people. We may add that Mr. Rennison is very anxious to publicly acknowledge the courage and devotion of his interpreter, Mr. Kang.—*N. C. Daily News*.

RAUB GOLD.

The Local Secretary, Raub Australian Gold Mining Company, Limited, Singapore, has received the following telegram from Raub, dated 5th January, 1899:

Crushing finished; 2,465 tons stone realized 2,182 oz. smelted gold.

This return is at the rate of 17 dwts. 16.8 grs. of crushing gold per ton of stuff put through the battery. It is therefore just a shade under the recent normal of 17 dwts. When it is considered that a good deal of stuff of a mixed character is sent through the mill, in addition to the more solid quartz of the well-defined parts of the reef, it is easy to see that fluctuations of even a greater extent ought to be expected. Taking thick and thin together, quartz and mixed quartz and mullock, to our thinking the feature of the Raub returns is their wonderfully stable nature, a few grains up or down not counting one way or the other. The last return was of an exceptionally good character and this returns to the customary level. At £3 18s. per ounce this return gives a sterling value for two month's work of £8,509, or say about \$86,700.

The six crushes for the year are as follows:

1898	tons stone	oz. gold	dwt. per ton
Jan.-Feb.	2,250	205	18.5
March-Apr.	2,450	222	18.3
May-June	2,300	215	18.16
July-Aug.	2,340	275	8.1
Sept.-Oct.	2,172	2183	2.2
Nov.-Dec.	2,465	2182	17.7

Total 3,937 12,862 (av.) 18.11
Roughly for the twelve months' work the return is £50,000 or over \$500,000.

In order that these returns may be understood in relation to expenditure, we may mention again, that all working charges, including depreciation, and also the whole work of developing, which is really an addition to the value of the property, amounts to some £1,500 a month. The expenditure for the twelve months is thus about £18,000, against a return of gold valued at £50,000, and the profit margin over £30,000, on a capital of £200,000.—*Singapore Free Press*.

There was only one case for the criminal sessions which opened on 18th Jan. and after the jury had been empanelled the Chief Justice, in dismissing the other gentlemen who had been summoned, thanked them for their attendance and at the same time congratulated them on the shortness of the calendar.

FORMOSA.

Taipeh, 21st December.

Formosa has shown decided progress in her trade and international administration during the year 1898. The natives are apparently increasing in wealth, as their trade has greatly expanded and the labouring classes have benefitted from the great increase in wages. With harbours and railways, the island will doubtless become one of the richest parts of the China Sea. The total sum of the import and export trade for 1896 was 20,033,000 yen, and the trade for 1897 suddenly increased to 25,418,000 yen. For the first half of this year the total trade amounts to 14,421,000 yen. So that the whole year will probably reach something like 28,000,000 yen. This is about double the amount of trade for 1894, the last year of the Chinese administration in the island and is even higher when compared with preceding years. The import and export trade in tea, sugar, oil, and flour is gradually increasing, but camphor, owing to the low prices in the market and high wages, has decreased. In Tzututia, Mourilyan, Heimann & Co. have recently established themselves as tea and general merchants, and Tait & Co. will again engage in the sugar trade in the south. In general, foreign as well as native trade is in a healthy and prosperous condition.

The armed banditti in the south and central districts disturbed the peaceful villagers and attacked travellers, creating much alarm, but they are now quieting down again with the exception of some districts where a Japanese expedition is at present in operation. In the northern districts things are now very peaceful, and it is quite safe to travel without any danger, and the natives are now engaging in road-making and other works under government control. These bands of robbers seem to be a common product of all parts of China, and the Japanese authorities find it a difficult task to root them all out. If they are destroyed in one district they spring up again in another, but with the completion of the plans for their subjugation it is quite certain that in course of time the Formosa banditti will become quiet, and for the welfare of the island generally we hope this end will soon be attained.—*N. C. Daily News correspondent*.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

Rumours have been current in Canton that the Viceroy received a telegram on the 7th instant from the Tsungli Yamen telling him to make all preparations for emergencies. The report still requires confirmation.

The Viceroy has received a despatch from Wu Ting-fang, the Chinese Minister in America, to the effect that it has been discovered that some people are now engaged in an unlawful business of smuggling arms and ammunition from America to be imported into China to supply them to bad characters and that strictest care should be exercised to prevent their importation. The Viceroy has accordingly instructed his subordinate officers to that effect.

Firewood is exceedingly dear in Canton, a picul being sold for over sixty cents. The cause of such a high rate is that no fresh supplies have lately come forward from the East River, where the article is in great abundance, for junks laden with firewood are not allowed by the pirates to proceed to Canton till each junk has paid fifty dollars blackmail. The local authorities do not take any steps to get rid of the pirates, but simply ask the silk factories to use coal instead of firewood, for they say that the heavy consumption of firewood of over seven thousand piculs daily by the silk factories is the cause of the high price.

On the 7th instant a big fire broke out in a market place in Sai-chin, Nam-hoi district, in which there were about one hundred and twenty houses. The fire originated in a grocer's shop. Over fifty houses were burnt to the ground, but luckily there was no loss of life.

It is said that H.E. Chang Pat-shi, Director General of the Canton-Hankow railway, who went to Singapore some months ago to invite subscription for shares for the undertaking, has raised a subscription of 12,000,000 taels. He will probably return to Canton by the end of next month.

Viceroy Tan has received a telegram from H.E. Liu Kun-ji, Viceroy of Nankin, requesting him to send General Liu Yung-fu and Lieutenant-General Kong Chi to Nankin with all the soldiers under their command. Lieutenant-General Kong Chi is now engaged in enlisting five more regiments of five hundred soldiers each; the force at present under his command is not large enough.

Rumours have been current in Canton to the effect that three Censors have memorialised the Throne recommending the cashiering of H.E. Liu Kun-ji, Viceroy of Nankin. The charges brought against him are that he is lazy and slow in the execution of public duties.

As cash is in great demand, Hongkong cents are accepted in many places as legal tender. Some money changers have come from the districts of Sunpak and Sansi to Canton for the purpose of collecting a supply of cents.

The groundnut crop is reported to be very favourable this season, in consequence of which the price of groundnut oil has greatly declined. A jar containing thirty catties is now sold at the price of three taels and three mace against four taels and two mace last month.

As the price of firewood is going up daily the Acting Provincial Treasurer has sent some expectant officers to buy supplies in Kwangsi and other provinces where the article is produced abundantly, to be sold to the people in Canton at low prices.

As the Chinese New Year is approaching, robbers are bolder than ever. It is very dangerous to travel either by land or by water. The latter is much the worse, for the robbers appear in large numbers in long boats, so that it is very seldom any one in a small boat can make his escape. Though many guard boats have been established at the expense of the villages, they are not a match for the robbers, who are all armed with rifles of new patterns.

HONGKONG.

The *Avoca* left on 16th Jan for home with the King's Own.

There were 2,824 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 212 were Europeans.

We have reason to believe that correspondence for the *Daily Press* has been impounded by the postal authorities in the Philippines.

A notification was issued by the Cable Companies on 16th Jan. to the effect that telegrams to Manila containing political news or references are subject to censorship by the United States Authorities there, and can only be accepted at the senders' risk.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Lieut. A. H. Lee-Norman, Hongkong Volunteers, resigns the appointment of Aide-de-camp to His Excellency the Governor from the 9th instant. Second Lieut. R. W. J. The Viscount Suirdale, 3rd Battalion Royal Irish Regiment, is appointed Aide-de-camp to His Excellency the Governor with effect from the 9th instant.

A registered packet was recently sent from Yokohama to Sydney, Australia. It took some time over its journey, for instead of going direct, the Hongkong Post Office kindly sent it to Liverpool, whence it travelled to London and then back through the Suez Canal again, finally reaching its destination two months after "duplicates" despatched from Yokohama a mail later.—*Japan Mail.*

The cook employed by Mrs. Wagner, of Garden Road, Kowloon, appeared before Commander Hastings at the Magistracy on Thursday charged with having administered poison or some other noxious drug with intent to do grievous bodily harm. Mrs. Wagner went to Hongkong on the 10th inst. and on returning home at noon she found her five servants in a state of stupefaction. Being alarmed she at once went to the Yaumati Police Station and made a report. The men were taken to the hospital but were well enough to leave the next day. They stated that as they were preparing their meal defendant came with a jar of fat, which he put into their food, and as soon as they had partaken of the latter they became ill. The jar was subsequently discovered in the ashpit broken, but on some fat which was scraped from it being examined by Mr. E. Browne, Acting Government Analyst, it was found to contain datura. Defendant was committed for trial.

There were no cases of communicable disease reported as occurring in the colony last week.

The *Avoca*, with the King's Own on board, left for Singapore on 17th Jan. We wish the departing Regiment a pleasant time on their new station.

The maximum temperature last month was 79.7, on the 1st, and the minimum 50, on the 15th, the mean for the month being 62.1. The rainfall amounted to 0.025 in. There were 254 hours of sunshine.

At the regular convocation of the Victoria Chapter, No 525, E.C., the election of Officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows :— M.E.Z., Ex Comp. R. Mitchell; H., Ex Comp. G. J. B. Sayer; J., Comp. G. Piercy, Jr.; Treasurer, Comp. J. J. Bryan; Sc.E., Comp. E. Ralphs; Sc.N., Comp. B. B. Harker; P.S., Comp. J. D. Ball; Janitor, Comp. J. Maxwell.

Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Seymour, Captain Jellicoe, and the Officers of H.M.S. *Centurion* gave a ball on board the flagship on the 12th January at which Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess Henry of Prussia, Sir Henry and Lady Blake, and Major-General and Mrs. Gascoigne were present. The ship had been turned into a veritable fairyland, the deck being closed in with flags and decorated with flowers and the electric light. The dais and alcove arranged at the stern made an especially beautiful picture.

At a regular convocation of the United Chapter, No. 1,341, the following office-bearers were appointed for the ensuing year:—M.E.Z., Ex. Comp. H. E. A. Hoile; H., M.E. Comp. W. M. B. Arthur; J. Comp. J. Bremner; Treasurer, Comp. J. R. Grimble; Scribe E., M.E. Comp. G. J. W. King; Scribe N., Comp. J. Wheel; P. S. Comp. W. H. E. Smith,; 1st Assist. S., Comp. G. Watling; 2nd Assist. S., Comp. H. Gilmour; Dir. of Cer., Comp. J. Varcoe; Steward. Comp. F. Stainton; T'yer, Comp. J. Maxwell.

We understand that elaborate preparations are being made at Bangkok in view of the approaching visit of Their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Henry of Prussia, who will probably leave Hongkong in the *Deutschland* on the 28th inst., the day after the birthday of the Emperor of Germany. They purpose staying with the King of Siam, whose visit to the Emperor a year or two ago they are returning, for about a fortnight, after which they will go to Shanghai and then to Kiaochow. On the 25th inst. a ball, at which the Prince and Princess will be present, will be given by the German community at the City Hall.

At the Magistracy on Thursday afternoon the shroff employed at the Cattle Depot at Kowloon was charged with causing to be impressed, on January 6th, the mark of a broad arrow without lawful authority, it being the duty of Inspector Watson to pass animals fit for slaughter and to order their marking. Mr. Dennys appeared for the prosecution and Mr. Grist for the defence. It appeared that on the fifth of January, a butcher at Hunghom brought up six cattle to the dépôt to be passed for slaughter, and Inspector Watson passed four of the number, the other two being retained in the dépôt. Next morning, the butcher came to the dépôt to take away the rejected cattle, and was met by the shroff who told him not to take them away; he would pass them on payment of \$1 each. The butcher paid the money, and the shroff told the coolie to brand the cattle with the counterfeit arrow. This was done and the cattle were being driven along the road to the slaughter house, when Inspector Watson, who had been watching in a place of hiding, went down and arrested the butcher and then the coolie. The butcher and the coolie were taken before the Magistrate on the 7th, and were each fined \$10, with the alternative of three months' imprisonment. The coolie said he had only done what he was ordered to do by the shroff, but the shroff denied all responsibility. The matter was further enquired into, and the counterfeit marking iron was found secreted in the chimney of a cookhouse at the depot. The evidence of the Indian watchman at the slaughter-house showed that the shroff had been connected with the affair, the shroff having endeavoured to induce him to join in the business. In consequence the shroff was arrested and he was sentenced to six months' hard labour.

The stamp revenue last year amounted to \$351,422, being an increase of \$77,377 on the amount collected in 1897.

We are informed that subject to audit the Directors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation propose to pay at the forthcoming meeting a dividend of £1 10s. per share and a bonus of £1 per share, to add \$1,000,000 to the reserve fund, to write off \$500,000 from property account, and to carry forward about \$830,000. The £250,000 2½ per cent. Consols special London reserve remain at 2s. 6d. and £95. The £525,000 2½ per cent. Consols have been written down to £90 and exchange 2s. The balance of sterling securities, about £300,000, remain as at present in books and exchange 2s.

The new river gunboat the *Sandpiper* was successfully launched on Wednesday at Hung Hom slip, taking the water very well. Mrs. Holland performed the ceremony of naming the vessel, previous to which a short service was conducted by the Rev. Francis Flynn. Among those present were H.E. Sir Henry Blake and Lady Blake, The Bishop and Mrs. Hoare, Major-General and Mrs. Gascoigne, Rear-Admiral and Mrs. Holland, Colonel and Mrs. Evatt, Commanders Napier, Davison, and Plenderleath; Lieutenant Commanders Carr (of the *Sandpiper*) and Haywood Booth. The vessel was towed round to the Kowloon Naval Yard and will go out for a steam trial to-day. She will probably commence her duties in the West River very shortly.

The following notification appears in the *Gazette*:—The attention of the Governor having been directed to the similarity of the ribbon attached to the Jubilee Medal with that of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, His Excellency hereby directs that such ribbon may not be worn for any other official medal or decoration than that for which it was instituted, and that the Jubilee Medal must be worn attached to a ribbon not so appropriated. His Excellency has further been pleased to approve of the Jubilee Medal being worn with a yellow and white striped ribbon one and a half inches in width, the outer stripes to be of yellow half an inch in width, and the inner stripe to be of white half an inch in width. The new ribbon will be obtained by the Government and issued in due course to gentlemen entitled to wear the Jubilee Medal.

A large congregation assembled in St. John's Cathedral on 16th January on the occasion of an organ recital by Mr. A. G. Ward. Miss Gaspar, who was announced as the vocalist, no doubt proved an extra attraction. She sang both her pieces beautifully. Mr. Ward played with his usual ability. The following was the programme:—

A Chinese boatwoman was charged at the Magistracy on 16th Jan. with having neglected to exhibit a light on her boat on Saturday night. Fok Chin, steersman of the *Guiding Star*, said that he was steering straight from Hongkong to Kowloon. On passing the east side of Jardine's No. 1 buoy he saw a shadow on his starboard side, but saw no light. He at once reversed the engines, but too late to prevent defendant's boat from colliding. He towed the boat to Kowloon, where she filled and sank. R. E. Humphreys, who was a passenger on board the launch at the time of the occurrence, said the whistle was blown sharply and the engines reversed, but this did not prevent them from running into a junk which was under sail. There was no light at the mast-head of the junk. After the collision the sail of the junk was taken down and he saw a light being hoisted at the jigger mast. Defendant said the light was hoisted at the mast-head, and the launch was hailed twice. A fine of \$25, or six months, was imposed.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Union (Shanghai) says:—One of our subscribers recently witnessed a cremation at the Municipal establishment on the Bubbling Well Road. He saw the whole process through the mica windows in the oven and from his description, a graphic one, we should say the Crematorium is now in proper working order. No fire, he says, touches the body, but the oven is at a white heat which quickly causes the corpse to ignite, and in an hour the operation is over. He says, however, it is not a sight one would like to see every day, though there is nothing repulsive about it, and he thinks cremation a far better way of disposing of a body than burying it.

At Shanghai on the 12th January Lieut.-Commander H. D. S. Watson, R.N., hoisted his pennant on board of our new defender H.M.S. Woodcock in presence of Capt. Cochran who represented the Reserve. Her crew consists of her commander, a doctor (W. M. Keith), and twenty-four men. The vessel left Tangkadoo a couple of hours afterwards and was heartily cheered by the Britishers on their several vessels. She is now moored off the Pootung Police hulk and is taking in coal and stores preparatory to receiving orders from the Commander-in-Chief. This is Lieutenant Watson's maiden command and we wish him every success.—*N. C. Daily News.*

COMMERCIAL.TEA

SHANGHAI, 16th January.—(from Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co.'s Circular).—Our last "printed" Tea market advices were undate 10th ultimo Black Tea.—Buyers have shown no desire to take any further interest in Black Tea, and for the few sales reported Teamen have accepted rather lower rates.

Settlements reported are:—

Ningchow ...	647 half-chests at Tls. 15½ to 17½
Hohow	228 " at " 15 "
Onam	458 " at " 13 " 25

1,328 half-chests.

Total Settlements from opening of the market to date are:—

1898-99. 1897-98

Settlements.	Stock.	Settlements.	Stock,
86,999 ¼-chs.	1,279 ¼-chs.	71,880 ¼-chs.	9,445 ¼-chs.

GREEN TEA.—Pingsueys.—The bulk of the settlements have been of these descriptions, a large proportion of them being on native account or on joint account with natives. Prices have been very firm at a further advance of about 5 per cent. or say 16 per cent. from lowest point. Third Gunpowders much inferior to Teas rejected by New York Customs Inspectors have been wanted up to Taels 15 a picul for mixing with Hyson leaf for shipment to Bombay. It is reported that total supplies are likely to reach about 80,000 half-chests, but nothing is known of the quality of the leaf from which the last few thousand half-chests will be packed. Some late sales are said to give profits to Teamen, and on the whole the results of Pingsueys have been more favourable to natives than those of any Country Teas. Country Teas.—The few arrivals after the date of our last respects were taken readily at fully previous rate. The season is now closed. Local Packs and Wenchows.—Natives have been shipping some of their holdings, and stocks here and at Wenchow are now in a small compass. Hysons.—The demand from Bombay has been strong enough to cause an advance of Tls. 2 to 3 a picul. Some Teas bought by native speculators at Tls. 20/22 have been turned over at this advance. The market closes steady with stocks in all hands not exceeding 4,000 half-chests.

Settlements reported are:—

1898-99. 1897-98

Pingsuey ...	11,029 at Tls. 17½ to 36
Moyune....	1,202 " 16½ to 24½
Tienkai....	780 " 19 to 23
Fychow....	53 " 30
Local packed	2,639 " 17 to 26

15,708 ¼-chts.

Total settlements from opening of the season to date are:—

1898-99.

Settlements.	Stock.
67,479	7,542

Moyune

Tienkai

Fychow.....

Local packed

Total...., 268,203

8,107

1897-98.	
Settlements.	Stock.
1-chs.	¼-chts.
Pingsuey ...	89,580
Moyune.....	88,731
Tienkai.....	82,536
Fychow.....	21,977
Local packed	17,844
Total.....	299,618
	25,840

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

1898-99		1897-98	
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai...	18,478,766	18,869,361	
Foochow	13,200,549	12,622,570	
Amoy.....	688,318	685,651	
Canton	4,443,760	5,455,162	
	31,811,393	32,631,744	

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

1898-99		1897-98	
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai.....	15,661,674	20,228,971	
Amoy	12,034,647	14,522,772	
Foochow	7,297,412	7,126,264	
	34,990,733	41,878,007	

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA

1898-99		1897-98	
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow...	22,691,075	19,462,293	

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

1898-99		1897-98	
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	24,292,455	25,178,843	
Kobe	12,166,816	24,475,448	
	36,449,271	49,654,291	

SILK.

CANTON, 7th January.—Silk.—Tsatees.—No business to report for Europe. There is still a good demand for Bombay and \$620 have been paid for good No. 1. Re-reels.—A few bales of No. 1 Gant are said to have been settled at \$620. Filatures—Good chops and fine sizes have been in active demand. Little has been off-ring, there being practically no stocks, and prices advanced another \$10-15 per picul. Short-reels.—Buying was continued at advancing rates. No. 2 and good No. 2 chops being the most in demand. From prices paid we quote: \$735 for Yan Hing Cheong 14/16, \$730 for Mu Wo Cheong 14/16, \$725/720 for Hip Sam Choy, Kwan Pau Kee, Kwong Lun On & Yu King 14/16. Wafts.—Little has been done and prices are a trifle weaker.

SHANGHAI, 14th January.—(From Messrs. A. R. Burkhill & Sons' Circular).—According to the latest news, quotations remain unchanged in London, but Gold Kilings have risen to Frs. 29.50 in Lyons, markets firm. Raw Silk.—Business in Tsatees has been on a small scale this week, settlements amount to about 250 bales; in Skeins some 150 bales have changed bands. Stocks of White Silks are very low, certainly not more than 2,000 bales. Yellow Silk.—The market has been active, and settlements are fully 400 bales; 150 bales Mienchew have been contracted for delivery within six weeks. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, January 7th to 13th, are: 882 bales White, 236 bales Yellow, and 269 bales Wild Silks. Te-reels and Filatures.—The demand for Hand Filatures for America and Lyons still continues and some 300 bales have been settled. Steam Filatures are more in favour and prices show a rise in some chops of Tls. 12½/15. Lun Whas having been done at Tls. 780: about 600 bales in all have been settled, part for 2/3 months delivery. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: 2,286 bales to France, 1,327 bales to America and 70 bales to London. Wilk Silk.—A large business has been done, fully 1,000 bales having been taken, of which 800 bales are for delivery when the northern ports open. Prices are however only steady. Waste Silk.—The only business to be reported this week is a settlement of 6,000 piculs Old Silk Buildings:—80 per cent. No. I, 20 per cent. No. II, at Tls. 64. Pongees.—About 3,000 pieces of the following have been settled:—19 in. x 18/18½ yards x 23 oz. at Tls. 335/340. 33/34 in. x 19/19½ yards x 37/38 oz. at Tls. 8.00

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

1898-99		1897-98	
	bales	bales	bales
Shanghai	47,174	89,308	
Canton	20,721	16,748	
Yokohama.....	13,806	18,197	
	81,701	68,263	

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

1898-99		1897-98	
	bales	bales	bales
Shan-tai	5,482	8,227	
Canton.....	7,040	8,235	
Yokohama	15,792	21,174	
	28,814	87,636	

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 21st January.—A marked improvement has taken place in this market during the past week. Quotations for Formosa are \$52.00 to \$52.50 Sales, 2.0 piculs.

SUGAR

January 21, 1899.

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1898.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Jan. 14	812	—	817	—	730	—
Jan. 15	812	—	817	—	730	—
Jan. 16	812	—	817	—	730	—
Jan. 17	812	—	817	—	730	—
Jan. 18	810	—	815	—	730	—
Jan. 19	810	—	815	—	730	—
Jan. 20	810	—	815	—	730	—

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 20th January.—A large business has been put through at a rise of 50 cents per picul. Stocks, about 5,000 bales.

Bombay 13.50 to 16.00 picul.
Kurrachee to "
Bengal (New), Rangoon, and Dacca 15.00 to 17.00 picul.
Shanghai and Japanese 20.00 to 21.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo 20.00 to 21.00 "
Madras (Best) to "
Sales: 3,000 bales Bengal (New), Rangoon, and Dacca.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 21st January.—Prices continue to advance. Quotations are:—
Saigon, Ordinary \$2.60 to \$2.65
Bound, good quality 2.75 to 2.80
Long 2.90 to 2.95
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 3.00 to 3.05
" Garden, No. 1 3.10 to 3.15
White 3.75 to 3.80
" Fine Carga 3.95 to 4.00

COALS.

HONGKONG, 20th January.—The coal market is at a complete standstill. No business doing. Quotations nominal. Quotations are:—
Carlif \$18.00 to 19.00 ex ship, nominal
Australian 10.00 to 10.50 ex ship, "
Miki Lump and Small 9.00 to 10.00 nominal
Moji Lump 7.50 to 9.00 ex ship, nominal
Hongay double screened 12.00 ex Godown
Hongay Lump 8.00 to 8.50 ex ship
Hongay Dust 5.50 to —
Briquettes 12.00 to —

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 20th January.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—
TENS AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn.—1,650 bags No. 19 at \$67 to arrive to \$55, 450 bales No. 12 at \$72 to \$78, 50 bales No. 16 at \$80, 1,100 bales No. 20 at \$82 to \$86.75. Grey Shirtings.—1,200 pieces 8 lbs. B Jars No. 2 at \$2.92, 600 pieces 8 lbs. 3 Dogs at \$2.97, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Dragon at \$3.89, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue Ticket at \$3.82, 800 pieces 7 lbs. Blue Lion at \$1.90, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Red 5 Men at \$3.32. White Shirtings.—250 pieces S Q at \$4.40, 25 pieces S S at \$4.57, 2,000 pieces Fox and Duck at \$3.27, 150 pieces Gold Tiger at \$6.00, 250 pieces Blue Dragon at \$5.00, 400 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.37, 500 pieces Blue Dragon at \$5.15, 500 pieces 3 lbs at \$3.60. T-Cloths.—375 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Red Stags at \$2.36, 300 pieces 8 lbs. Red Stags at \$2.72, 300 pieces 8 lbs. V V at \$2.95, 600 pieces 8 lbs. Mex. C 6 at \$3.07, 375 pieces Mex. G. Dragon at \$2.34, 300 8 lbs. Mex. V V at \$2.95. Long Ells Scarlet.—250 pieces 9 lbs. 5 Chickens at \$7.20. Bengal Cotton—100 bales at \$16.75, 129 bales at \$15.75.

COTTON YARN.

per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s 62.00 to 96.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24 100.00 to 107.00
" 22 to 24 103.00 to 110.00
" 28 to 32 114.00 to 120.00
" 38 to 42 124.00 to 130.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs 1.70 to 1.80
7 lbs 1.92 to 2.00
8.4 lbs 2.30 to 3.05
9 to 10 lbs 3.20 to 4.00
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.30 to 2.50
58 to 60 .. 2.70 to 3.35
64 to 66 .. 3.45 to 4.30
Fine 4.30 to 7.00
Book-folds. 3.70 to 5.60
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... 0.64 to 1.30
T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. 1.52 to 1.72
" 7 lbs. (32 ") .. 1.85 to 2.10
" 6 lbs. (32 "), Mex. 1.62 to 1.82
" 7 lbs. (32 "), " 2.05 to 2.75
" 8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.) 2.35 to 3.20

DRILLS, ENGLISH—40 YDS., 14 TO 16 LBS.

16 lbs 3.65 to 5.85

FANCY COTTONS.

Turkey Red Shirtings—14 to 16 lbs 1.60 to 3.45
Brocades—Dyed 3.00 to —
Damask 0.12 to 0.16
Chintzes—Assorted 0.08 to —
Velvets—Black, 22 in 0.20 to —
Velveteens—18 in 0.17 to 0.18
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.25 to 1.25

WOOLLENS.

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chaps. 0.60 to 1.50
German 0.60 to 1.50

Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths. 1.00 to 2.25
per piece.

Long Ells—Scarlet 6.25 to 8.00
Assorted 6.35 to 8.10

Camlets—Assorted 12.00 to 32.00

Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted 10.00 to 20.00

Orleans—Plain 7.50 to 9.00
per pair

Blankets—8 to 12 lbs 3.50 to 14.00
per picul

IRON—Nail Rod 4.00 to —

Square, Flat Round Bar 4.10 to —

Swedish Bar 6.00 to —

Small Round Rod 4.50 to —

Hoop & to 11/2 in. 5.25 to —

Wire 13/25 9.00 to —

Old Wire Rope 1.50 to 2.50

Lead, L. B. and Hole Chop 8.50 to —

Australian 8.40 to —

Yellow M'tal—Muntz. 14/20 oz. 34.00 to —

Vivian's, 14/20 oz. 34.50 to —

Elliot's, 14/20 oz. 33.50 to —

Composition Nails 65.00 to —

Japan Copper, Slabs 38.00 to —

Tiles 33.00 to —

Tin — to —
per box.

Tin-Plates 5.90 to —
per cwt. case

Steel & to 6.50 to —

SUNDRIES

Quicksilver 155.00 to —
per box

Window Glass 4.75 to —
per 10-gal. case

Kerosene Oil 2.20 to —

per picul

SHANGHAI, 14th January.—(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report.)—The market although decidedly strong in tone has certainly been quieter this week, which would seem to denote that the demand is slackening off as the end of the year approaches. The supply of available goods must be rapidly dwindling however, for during the last three weeks a very large business appears to have gone through in Manchester makes of Shirtings and T-Cloths, much beyond the quantities that have been published. Latterly the better rates of exchange obtainable for forward transactions have induced holders to realise goods they had declined to part with before at the then current prices, so that quotations do not exhibit any material change to speak of, but they are certainly no lower, in fact at Auction there is a decided improvement in Cottons. Here and there indents have been booked for goods delivery of which can be had within reasonable time, but speaking generally this is the exception, and the dealers decline to commit themselves too far ahead in view of the possibility of a change in the tariff before the goods arrive. Already a clause is being inserted in some forward contracts making the purchaser responsible for any increase in duty that the goods may become liable to, a necessary precaution if the date of the intended increase is not fixed and published some distance ahead. In American goods there is not much going on at present, the only movement we hear of being what are apparently resales in New York of small parcels of earlier purchases that were made for this market, which of course will not affect the prospective supply. The enquiry continues for Hankow, and the Szechuan merchants are sending forward a few orders, although the troubles in that Province are by no means over yet. The Tientsin dealers are still acting with great caution and are only buying for forward delivery, the demand for prompt clearance being restricted by the scarcity of ready money amongst them. The market is firm for Yarns, but for prompt clearance prices remain unchanged. In Indian Spinnings there has been very little forward business as yet, but Japanese and local Yarns are being taken at improving prices.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong are enquired for at \$317. Chinias have found small buyers at \$384, \$39, and \$39, closing quiet at \$39.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao, notwithstanding the announcement of the dividend, have ruled rather weaker with small sales at \$25 and close with sellers at that rate.

Ludo-Chinas have changed Lands at \$61 and \$64 for cash and at \$63 for March, closing with buyers for the latter at \$64. China Manilas remain unchanged and without business. Douglasses have further improved, on a small demand for cash shares, to \$55, with sales, and close steady at that rate. China Mutuals are still enquired for, but remain without business.

REFINING.—Chinas Sugars have ruled easier with sellers at \$170 cash and at \$174 for March; a few cash transactions have taken place and a sale at \$173 for March is reported. Luzons are on offer at quotations without leading to business.

MINING.—Punjons have ruled very quiet with little or no business. Charbonnages have been on offer at \$115 without leading to business.

Olivers, Queens, and Jelabas have ruled steady and small sales have been effected at quotations.

Raubs have changed lands at \$48, \$47, and \$47, closing with sellers at last rate. Great

Easterns, small sales are reported at \$7.80.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled somewhat quiet with only small cash sales at 300

and for March at 308 per cent. prem. Kowloon Wharf shares continue in demand at \$79 to \$80, without bringing any shares into the market. Wanchai unchanged and without business.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have further improved to \$81 with sales and close steady at that rate. Hotels have been enquired for and sales have been effected at quotation (\$73). Humphreys have improved to \$9, with buyers. West Points continue quiet but steady at \$19. The management

of this last propose to pay a dividend of \$1.25 per share for 1898 and to carry forward and write off a larger sum than formerly.

COTTONS.—Hongkong Cottons are enquired for at \$78 $\frac{1}{2}$ and \$80, without finding sellers. In the absence of local business in Shanghai Cottons quotations are taken from the Northern circulars.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have changed hands at \$26 $\frac{1}{2}$ for new shares, Watsons at \$12 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Campbell and Moores at \$10.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$477.50, buyers
China & Japan, prf.		\$477.50, buyers
Do. ordinary...	\$4	\$1
Do. deferred...	\$1	\$5.5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	\$8	\$20, buyers
Founders Shares..	\$8	\$20, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	\$1	nominat
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$11, sales
China Prov. L & M....	\$10	\$10 sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$170, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 0
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 80
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 80
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 4 0
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 55
Hongkong	\$70	\$80, buyers
Dairy Farm Co.	\$4	\$5
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$31, buyers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$2 1/2, sales
Do. New Issue.....	\$1	\$1 1/2, sales
H. & China Bakery	\$50	\$33
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$126
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$104, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$125, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$73
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$120, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$80, buyers
Hongkong Rope.....	\$50	\$172 1/2
H. & W. Dock	\$125	30 p. ct. prem.= [\$500, buyers]
Insurances—		
Canton.....	\$50	\$150 sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$90, buyers
China Traders'	\$25	\$65, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$317 1/2, buyers
North-China	\$25	Tls. 180
Straits	\$20	\$7, sellers
Union	\$50	\$230
Yangtze.....	\$60	\$125
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment.	\$50	\$81, buyers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$9, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$8 1/2
West-Point Building	\$40	\$19, sales
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$55, sal. & sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Frs. 250	\$1 1/2, sellers
Great E. & C'donian	\$5	\$7 80, buyers
Jelebu	\$5	\$5 20, buyers
Queens' Minee Ld....	25c.	0 cts., sellers
Oliver's Mines, A.	\$5	\$7, buyers
Do. B.	\$2	\$5.25
Punjom	\$5	\$6 50
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$1.40, sales
Rents	14s. 10d.	\$4 1/2, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6	\$15 1/2, buyers
Steamship Coy.—		
China and Manila...	\$50	\$95
China Mutual Ord.	\$10	£9. 1 1/2s., buyers
Do. Preference ...	\$10	£5 10s., buyers
Do. Do.	\$5	£3, buyers
Douglas S. S. Co.	\$50	\$55, buyers
H. Canton and M....	\$15	\$27 1/2
Indo-China S. N....	\$10	\$14
Star Ferry	\$7	\$12, sellers
Tebran Planting Co.	\$5	\$5 5s., sellers
Do.	\$2	\$3 3s., sellers
United Asbestos	\$10	\$10, buyers
Wanchai Wareh'se Co.	\$37	\$19, ex div.
Watson & Co., A. S....	\$10	\$12 1/2, buyers
J. Y. V. VERNON, broker,		

SHANGHAI.—16th January.—From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report).—Business has been brisker this week, with some improvement in rates. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Shares were placed to Hongkong at 254 per cent. premium, with exchange 72 $\frac{1}{2}$, and changed hands locally at 250 per cent. premium. The quotation of 250 per cent. premium is nominal. National Bank of China shares were sold at \$17. Marine Insurance.—No business reported. Fire Insurance.—Hongkong were sold to Hongkong at \$315, with exchange 72 $\frac{1}{2}$. Rates steady at \$29. Shipping.—Hongkong.

Canton and Macao Steamboat shares changed hands locally at \$27. Indo-China S. N. shares were placed for April delivery at Tls. 44. Sugars.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares were sold at Tls. 87. China Sugar Refining shares changed hands at \$168. Mining.—Baub Australian Gold Mining shares were sold at \$464 with exchange 71 $\frac{1}{2}$ to Hongkong. Docks, Wharves & Godowns.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. were placed at Tls. 166. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares were sold at Tls. 127 $\frac{1}{2}$, and are wanted. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares were sold at Tls. 88. Hongkong Land Investment shares were placed to Hongkong at \$75, with exchange 72 $\frac{1}{2}$. Industrial.—Shares in Major Brokers were placed at Tls. 35/37 $\frac{1}{2}$. In Cotton Mill shares business was done:—Internationals at Tls. 80 cash and Tls. 84 for March delivery, and Laou Kung Mows at Tls. 83 for 28th February, and the same price for 15th and 31st March. Shanghai Ice shares were sold at Tls. 26, and are wanted. Tugs and Cargo Boats.—Shanghai Cargo Boat shares were placed at Tls. 160 cash and Tls. 165 for the 31st March. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Waterworks shares were placed at Tls. 280, and are offering. Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares were sold at Tls. 64 cash and Tls. 68 for the 31st March. Shanghai Langkat Tobacco shares improved to Tls. 85/85 cash, Tls. 10 for February and Tls. 105 for March delivery. Hall and Holtz shares were sold at \$31 $\frac{1}{2}$ and are offering. J. Lewellyn & Co. shares are obtainable at \$74. General Stores changed hands at \$10. Loans.—Shanghai Municipal 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Debentures of 1891 were sold at Tls. 97 $\frac{1}{2}$, Shanghai and Hankow Wharf 6 per cent. Debentures at Tls. 100 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Chinese Imperial Government E Loan Bonds at Tls. 250, plus the accrued interest in all cases.

Quotations are:—
BANKS.
Hongkong and Shanghai.—\$437.50
Bank of China and Japan, defd.—\$5.50
Do. ordinary.—Nominal.
National Bank of China, Ld.—\$17.00.
COTTON MILLS.
Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ld.—Tls. 70.00.
Hongkong Cotton S. W. & D. Co.—\$9.00.
International Cotton Man. Co., Ld.—Tls. 80.00.
Laou-kung-mow Cotton Co., Ld.—Tls. 80.00.
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ld.—Tls. 40.00.
DOCKS, WHARVES, &c.
Boyd & Co., Ld., Founders.—Nominal.
Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 183.00.
Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf Company.—\$75.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ld.—\$500.00.
S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 166.00.
Shanghai Engineering S. & D. Co.—Tls. 90.00.
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 127.50.
INSURANCES.
Canton Insurance Office, Ld.—\$150.00.
China Fire Insurance Co., Ld.—\$89.00.
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ld.—\$62.00.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ld.—\$811.25.
North China Insurance Co., Ld.—Tls. 180.00.
Straits Insurance Co., Ld.—\$7.00.
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ld.—\$225.
Yangtze Insurance Assoc., Ld.—\$130.
LANDS.
Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ld.—\$74.10.
Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Ld.—\$84.
Shanghai LandInvest Co. (fully pd.)—Tls. 88.00.
MINING.
Punjom Mining Co., Ld.—\$6.00.
Punjom Mining Co., Ld., pref. shares.—\$1.60.
Baub Australian Gold Mining Co., Ld.—\$46.25.
Sheridan Consolidated Co.—Tls. 2.50.
SHIPPING.
China-Mutual preference.—Tls. 71.00.
Do. ordinary, £5 paid.—Tls. 25.00.
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 140.00.
Douglas Steamship Co., Ld.—\$52.00.
Hongkong, Canton and Macao.—\$27.00.
Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ld.—Tls. 45.00.
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 160.00.
Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ld.—Tls. 195.00.
Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ld.—T. Tls. 75.00.
SUGAR.
China Sugar Refining Co., Ld.—\$166.00.
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ld.—\$55.00.
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ld.—Tls. 87.50.
MISCELLANEOUS.
American Cigarette Co.—Tls. 62.50.
Central Stores, Ld.—\$10.00.
China Flour Mills Co.—Tls. 42.50.
Hall & Holtz, Ld.—\$31.50.
Llewellyn & Co., J., Limited.—\$37.50.
Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 37.50.
Shanghai Feather Cleaning Co.—Tls. 400.00.
Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 205.00.
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ld.—Tls. 60.00.

Shanghai Ice, Cold Storage, & Refrigeration Co., Ld., Tls. 26.00.
Shanghai Ice Company—Tls. 35.00.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ld.—Tls. 95.00.
Do. New Issue.—Tls. 75.
Shanghai Rice Mills Co.—Tls. 27.00.
Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 66.00.
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ld.—Tls. 100.00.
Watson Co., A. S., Limited.—\$12.50.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 20th January.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/00
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.47
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.57
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.00
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	47
Credits, 60 days' sight	48
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	146
Bank, on demand	146
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	146
Bank, on demand	146
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72
Private, 30 days' sight	73
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	5 % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	1 1/2 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 % pm.
SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate	10.04
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	52.75

VESSELS ON THE BERTH

FOR LONDON.—Nestor (str.), Chusan (str.), Inaba Maru (str.).

FOR BOMBAY.—Hiroshima Maru (str.).

FOR BREMEN.—Preussen (str.).

FOR MARSEILLE.—Inaba Maru (str.), Indus (str.).

FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Sarnia (str.), Asturia (str.), Dorothea Rickmers (str.), Susila (str.), Wittenberg (str.).

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—Gaelic (str.), City of Peking (str.), Hongkong Maru (str.), Queen Margaret (str.).

FOR VANCOUVER.—Empress of India (str.).

FOR VICTORIA, B.C., AND TACOMA.—Victoria (str.).

FOR PORTLAND, O.—Columbia (str.).

FOR SAN DIEGO.—Carlisle City (str.).

FOR NEW YORK.—Commonwealth (str.), Kenmor (str.), Energia (str.), Eiderwald (str.), Indrahi (str.).

FOR AUSTRALIA.—Changsha (str.).

FOR THURSDAY ISLAND.—Tokio Maru (str.).

FOR SEATTLE.—Kinsiu Maru (str.).

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 2nd January.—At the early part of the past fortnight there was a good demand for steamers, especially to load at Saigon, when rates advanced to 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents per picul for Hongkong, but at the commencement of this week they dropped to 12 cents. To-day, however, the market is firm at 13 cents per picul for medium sized carriers ready to load in 2/3 weeks. From Bangkok to Hongkong, there is still no demand, the current rate for regular liners being 10 cents outside and 15 cents per picul inside the bar.

Japan coal freights.—From Moji to this \$1.90; to Singapore \$3.10 per ton. From Mororan to Hongkong \$3 per ton.

Several time charters have been effected at prices equal to previous rates.

Sailing tonnage.—The British ship, Howard D Troop 3,080 tons, left for Puget Sound under orders from owners. For New York, a small carrier might be placed at about 18s. per ton of 40 cubic feet. The American ships S. Mark and Abner Cobbe are the only vessels disengaged in port.

January 21, 1899.]

SHIPPING,**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.****HONGKONG.****January—****ARRIVALS.**

14. Kweiyang, British str., from Amoy.
 14. Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
 14. Carlisle Castle, British str., from Moji.
 14. Siegfried, German str., from Amoy.
 14. Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
 14. Hermes, Norwegian str., from Canton.
 14. Ingraban, German str., from Saigon.
 14. Nanyang, German str., from Taiwanfoo.
 15. Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
 15. Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
 15. Mogul, British str., from Foochow.
 15. Wosang, British str., from Shanghai.
 15. Japan, British str., from Yokohama.
 15. Keelung Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 15. Sarnia, German str., from Hamburg.
 15. Frundsberg, Austrian cr., from Shanghai.
 15. Fushun, Chinese str., from Canton.
 15. Whampoa, British str., from Canton.
 16. Asturia, German str., from Moji.
 16. Haiping, Chinese str., from Bangkok.
 16. Katsuyama Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 16. Menmuir, British str., from Kobe.
 16. Pronto, German str., from Toulon.
 16. Taishun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 16. Tategami Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 16. Kasuga Maru, Jap. str., from Thursday Id.
 16. Siam, British str., from Bangkok.
 16. Hoihao, French str., from Manila.
 16. King Sing, British str., from Manila.
 17. Australian, British str., from Australia.
 17. Dr. H. J. Kier, No. w. str., from Hongay.
 17. Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., from Bombay.
 17. Iohang, British str., from Wuhu.
 17. Suilberg, German str., from Haiphong.
 18. Clio, British str., from Samarang.
 18. Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 18. Tordenksjold, Norw. str., from Singapore.
 18. Shansi, British str., from Canton.
 18. Amara, British str., from Samarang.
 18. Taichio, British str., from Tamsui.
 18. Holstein, German str., from Saigon.
 18. Kutaang, British str., from Calcutta.
 19. Chinkiang, British str., from Canton.
 19. Hunan, British str., from Canton.
 19. Wo-ang British str., from Canton.
 19. Euplectela, British str., from Shanghai.
 19. Phra C. Kiao, British str., from Bangkok.
 19. Clara, German str., from Haiphong.
 19. Rohilla, British str., from Yokohama.
 19. Chusan, British str., from Shanghai.
 19. Dagmar, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
 19. Sagami Maru, Japanese str., from Amoy.
 20. Alacritiy, British d.-v., from Canton.
 20. Taishun, Chinese str., from Canton.
 20. Peiyang, German str., from Shanghai.
 20. Germania, German str., from Saigon.
 20. Woosung, British str., from Shanghai.
 20. Don Juan de Austria, Amer. monitor, from Manila.

January— DEPARTURES.

14. Salazie, French str., for Europe.
 14. Bellerophon, British str., for Amoy.
 14. Donar, German str., for Cebu.
 14. Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
 14. Pigmy, British gunboat, for a cruise.
 14. Glenogle, British str., for Tacoma.
 14. Independent, German str., for Hongay.
 14. Tailee, German str., for Amoy.
 14. Toonan, Chinese str., for Swatow.
 14. Patroclus, British str., for Shanghai.
 14. America Maru, Jap. str., for San Francisco.
 14. Kweiyang, British str., for Samarang.
 14. Deucalion, British str., for Kudat.
 15. Thales, British str., for Coast Ports.
 15. Yedo Maru, Japanese str., for Saigon.
 15. Triumph, German str., for Hoihao.
 15. Guthrie, British str., for Kobe.
 15. Tritos, German str., for Saigon.
 15. Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 15. Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., for Foochow.
 15. Socotra, British str., for Nagasaki.
 15. Gisela, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
 16. Alacritiy, British d.-v., for Canton.
 16. H.M.S. Immortalite, for England.
 16. Trym, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 16. Wosang, British str., for Canton.
 16. Taishun, Chinese str., for Canton.
 16. Hermes, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 16. Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
 16. Shini Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 17. Kong Beng, British str., for Saigon.

17. Nanyang, German str., for Swatow.
 17. Amigo, German str., for Hongay.
 17. Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 17. Japan, British str., for London.
 17. Avoa, British transport, for Europe.
 17. Fushuu, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 17. Mogul, British str., for New York.
 17. Chowfa, British str., for Bangkok.
 17. Olympia, American str., for Tacoma.
 17. Lightning, British str., for Calcutta.
 18. Empress of China, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
 18. Iohang, British str., for Canton.
 18. Paramita, Amr. ship, for Singapore.
 18. Ingraban, German str., for Saigon.
 18. Oslo, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 18. Loosok, British str., for Bangkok.
 18. Hailan, French str., for Hoihao.
 18. Sarnia, German str., for Yokohama.
 18. Nierstein, German str., for Shanghai.
 18. Kasuga Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
 18. Shansi, British str., for Shanghai.
 19. Asturia, German str., for Hamburg.
 19. Menmuir, British str., for Australia.
 19. Australian, British str., for Shanghai.
 19. Taichio, British str., for Swatow.
 19. Quarta, German str., for Saigon.
 19. Siam, British str., for Swatow.
 19. Chingpiug, British str., for Shanghai.
 19. Hunan, British str., for Hongay.
 19. Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 19. Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
 19. Frundsberg, Austrian cr., for Singapore.
 20. Euplectela, British str., for Manila.
 20. Kingsing, British str., for Amoy.
 20. Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 20. Hoihao, French str., for Hoihao.
 20. Hsiping, Chinese str., for Bangkok.
 20. Rating, French str., for Haiphong.
 20. Kashina, British str., for Shanghai.
 20. Peiyang, German str., for Canton.
 20. Wosang, British str., for Swatow.

PASSENGERS LIST.**ARRIVED.**

Per *Salazie*, for Hongkong from Shanghai, Mrs. Glover, Mr. E. H. Journe, Mr. and Mrs. de Souza and 3 children, Mr. F. James, Mrs. Joseph and 4 children, Mrs. Blum, Mrs. Glasmann and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. A. Botelho, Messrs. Lo Tye Hong, Mr. F. Von Behringer, Mr. and Mrs. A. Downs, Messrs. Koo Cheh Foo, Johns Doe, Sano, Thompson, Mr. and Miss Souza, Messrs. S. Peter and Michoëls; from Yokohama, Messrs. Vogel, Hug Wheeler, Saito, Deane, Gillespie, Lo Jun Tang, Hamado, Jachers, and Mine. For Saigon from Yokohama, Messrs. Cudenet and Sailer. For Suez from Nagasaki, Père Amorsy; for Port Said, Col. Dessuro, Mr. and Mrs. Bogdanowitch; for Marseilles, Messrs. Touchais, Coiffie, Analin, Viguerie, Samuel Nicholson, and Young. For Marseilles from Shanghai, Messrs. Coulon, Fauveder, Jovilet, S. valle, Sivouret, Baron Karff, Messrs. Saponoff, Akifiess, Zwoegnoloff, Mrs. Salabelle and 3 children, and Mr. Wrightley.

Per *Esmeralda*, from Manila, Mrs. Flavell, Misses Flavell (2), Mrs. Shilz, child and nurse, Mr. and Mrs. Rameres, Misses Marcaida (2), Mrs. Howard, Col. W. D. Cunrad, Major M. T. Foot, Messrs. Leroine, R. Lebandy, T. Leyarrya, Hilton, C. A. Heiger, L. X. Chapman, M. Qensumboug, Clay MacCauly, L. Leemann, S. Sanchez, D. Navascies, P. Layunas, J. Lopez, A. Martin, W. Sweeney, Ellenger, Williamson, and Williams, Mr. and Mrs. L. Osorio, Miss F. R. Osorio and Master Osorio.

Per *Japan*, from Yokohama for London, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Raines; from Shanghai for London, Mr. C. Baird; for Hongkong, Mr. D. C. Campbell. From Amoy for London, Lieut. Laird; for Singapore, Mr. Ti Hak See and son.

Per *Kasuga Maru*, from Australia for Hongkong, Messrs. Charles Rhodes, T. F. Kinnell, and T. Reid; for Kobe, Messrs. F. Kanematsu Tanaka; for Yokohama, Mr. A. Macmillan, Mrs. Macmillan, Miss Howe, Miss Booth, Mr. C. F. Treppin, Mr. R. T. Bell, Mrs. Bell and 3 children, and Mr. Y. Soto.

Per *Australasia*, from Sydney, Messrs. J. L. Castner, J. A. Jupp, Mr. H. Harvey, Rev. and Mrs. Barnett, Miss Bachor, Mrs. W. Xter, child and infant; from Port Darwin, Mrs. Oto and infant.

Per *Rohilla*, from Yokohama, Mr. C. H. Allen, Capt. L. Lupev, Mr. and Mrs. J. Stevan and 3 children, Messrs. R. Gordon Smith, H. J. Roth-

well, Masters Cabeldu and Hall, Messrs. Lee Hing Shing, Long Hop Sai, Ah Wing, and Ah Ping.

Per *Chusan*, for Hongkong from Kobe, Messrs. J. Hay and W. Aikken; from Shanghai, Messrs. G. Wheeler, K. Andis, C. Mittell, Keenan, Wuttke, G. Eickelberger, S. W. Pratt, and R. Dibrell. From Shaughai for Bombay, Mrs. S. Murphine; for Marseilles, Mr. T. Guyer, R. N.; for London, Mr. A. E. Horne, Miss M. Gower, and Mr. D. Entwhistle.

DEPARTED.

Per *Preussen*, for Shanghai from Southampton, Mrs. Bassett and party, Mrs. Middleton and party Mr. R. W. Hurst, and Rev. E. E. Darwent; from Genoa, Mr. and Mrs. Alf. Brown, Capt. Luneschloss, Einsmann, Lienis, Schubard and Beiche; from Naples, Chevalier Luzatti and Marquis San Dito; from Singapore, Mr. Rehders; from Bremen, Mr. R. Hoetz; from Southampton, Messrs. J. W. Alber, Janesquist, A. Ewing and family, J. W. H. John and family; from Genoa, Messrs. J. St. Maner, Hammelmann, Ad. Berkhauser, Mr. and Mrs. Rosa Gaudiose, and family; from Colombo, Mr. O. Albertazzi; from Bremen, Messrs. F. Heise, O. Roze, W. Brandt, J. G. Bormann, P. Bornmann, J. Baumann, H. Abraham, E. Ehrelich, J. Megallis, R. Edelmann, J. Schmidt, and A. Sassen. From Genoa, Messrs. G. Medderer and J. Reinhardt; from Colombo, Messrs. J. Gamba, E. Bardone, and L. Pardain. For Kiauchow from Genoa, Messrs. M. Nagler, R. Loscher, and A. Kell; from Naples, Mr. E. Label, Mr. and Mrs. Leversen, from Genoa, Messrs. R. Autonio, C. Knipfer, H. Menzell, F. F. Bierbaum, B. Grombation, F. Pettro, B. Matro, and C. Pietro; from Hongkong, Messrs. C. Herget, J. Bauer, H. Pool, R. Cloth, B. Cavanagh, W. Witt, and J. E. Tait.

Per *America Maru*, for Shanghai, Dr. J. J. Guisti, Lieut. Aloe, Messrs. A. Cohn, J. A. Williams, W. D. Mitell, M. J. McDonough, Capt. Farrell, Mrs. Fong Lee She, Miss Syen, Messrs. Poate, Pak, R. Lebandy, A. Fredeich, J. Hodges, and L. R. Bowes; for Nagasaki, Mr. K. Aoki; for San Franisco, Messrs. C. Zoisig, E. P. Siney, H. Stephens, M. Ingwersen, G. J. Kidder, L. C. Wixson, H. H. Winn, R. C. Kingsley, J. Hutchinson; for Portland, Messrs. E. Snyder, A. C. McIlroth, A. Jackson, J. C. Kiggles, S. Sundersen, W. H. Hite, J. Slaney, W. J. Viacke; for Seattle, Messrs. H. Hulbert, E. F. Stanley, W. Dozier, T. Nason; for Tacoma, Mr. R. E. Cunningham.

Per *Salazie*, from Hongkong for Saigon, Mr. L. Cognier; for Singapore, Mr. Wong Ni-leung, Mr. Non, Mrs. Cheung, Mr. R. Chelarun; for Port Said, Messrs. A. Coudzenke, P. Lempitzki, and I. Radulovich; for Marseilles, Messrs. M. Vamba, L. Diaz, L. Perez, J. Aparicio, M. Martindido, E. Barrena, Mrs. de S. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. D. Bota and child, Mr. and Mrs. N. Ballesca and child, Messrs. M. Aróstegui, J. Arteaga, Mrs. del Portal, Messrs. E. de Castro, R. Reudon, S. Peres, F. Lopes, P. Idoate, S. Garrido, A. Gnamis, T. Alvarez Crespo, E. Dellmann, E. T. Vellado, F. Fizva, D. M. Gil, and A. P. de Silva.

Per *Japan*, from Hongkong for Singapore, Mr. H. Hilton; for London, Li-ut T. II. Selford, Mr. J. E. Jones, R. N., Lieut. J. K. Laird, R. N., and Mr. W. C. Stevens, R. N. From Amoy for Singapore, Mr. Li Hak See and son. From Shanghai for London, Mr. C. Baird; from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Raines.

Per *Empress of China*, for Shanghai, Mrs. C. B. Quelch and child, Mrs. Baxter and child, Mr. Vanderstegen, Mr. Ohl, Mr. E. F. Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. Von Hacht; for Kobe, Mr. C. McCauley; for London, Ontario, Messrs. J. Hall, E. Winnett, and G. Laxton; for London, England, Rev. C. H. Broome, Messrs. T. B. Pink and J. Pope.

Per *Lightning*, for Singapore, Mrs. Chan Mooy, Mrs. Ng Nai, Mrs. Chung Yu, Mr. Chan Wo Kit, Mrs. Li Sup, Mrs. Ip Wong, Mrs. Foo Ze, Mrs. Ching Sze, and Mr. David Wesberger; for Penang, Mrs. Li Cheong, Messrs. Koo King Sing and Lo Ki Min; for Calcutta, Mrs. Q. H. Gaspar, Mrs. and Miss Howard Calcutta, and Mr. and Mrs. Downes Calcutta.

Per *Menmuir*, for Sydney, Mr. Sir W. Anstruther, Messrs. Colin Smith and Forsyth.

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